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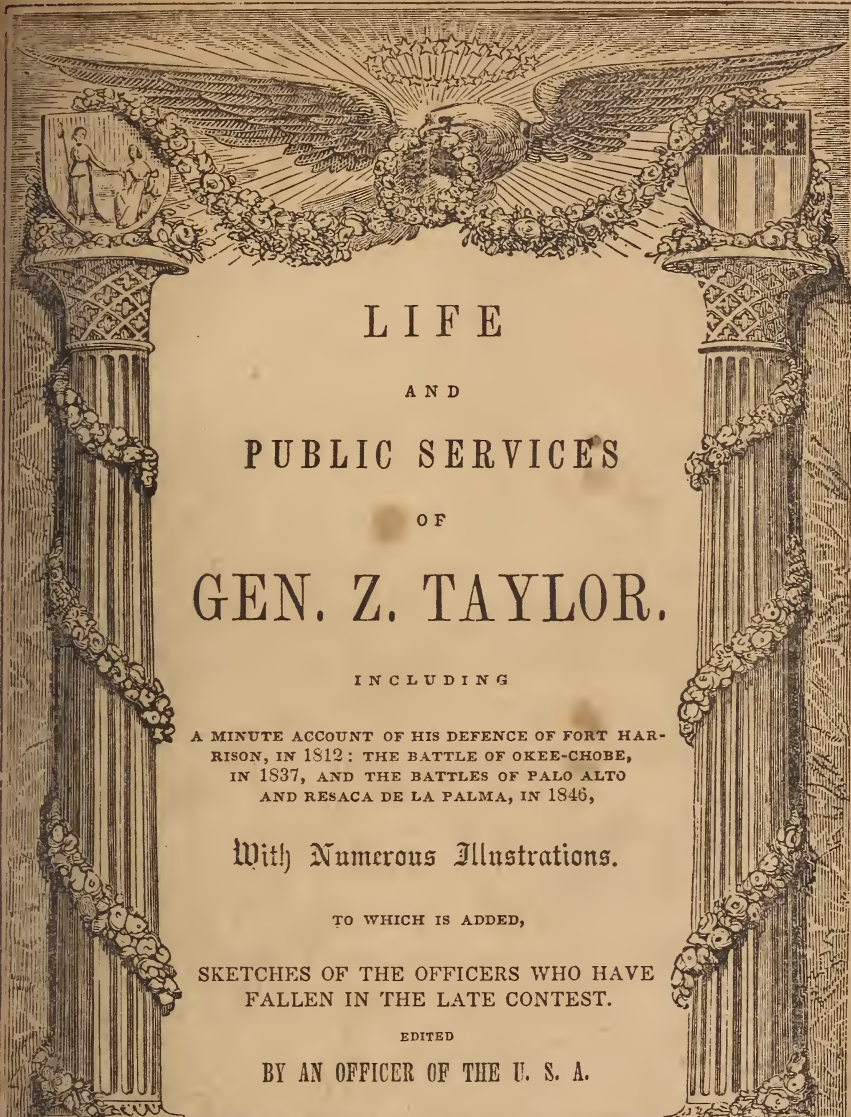






11-12-23

LONGS' ILLUSTRATED EDITION.



LIFE  
 AND  
 PUBLIC SERVICES  
 OF  
 GEN. Z. TAYLOR.

INCLUDING  
 A MINUTE ACCOUNT OF HIS DEFENCE OF FORT HARRISON, IN 1812: THE BATTLE OF OKEE-CHOBE, IN 1837, AND THE BATTLES OF PALO ALTO AND RESACA DE LA PALMA, IN 1846,

With Numerous Illustrations.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
 SKETCHES OF THE OFFICERS WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE LATE CONTEST.

EDITED  
 BY AN OFFICER OF THE U. S. A.

PALO ALTO  
 RINGGOLD  
 PAGE.

H. LONG & BROTHER  
 32 ANN STREET  
 NEW YORK

RESACA DE  
 LA PALMA  
 CHADBOURNE  
 COCHRANE  
 INGE

STRONG SC. NY.

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J Taylor, 1st Genl  
U.S. Army



The reverse of the letter from Genl Taylor to Hon. A. A. Mickel, Mayor of N. York.

very courteous terms in which you have com-  
municated the proceedings of the meeting.

His Honor  
I have the honor to be

A. A. Mickel

very respectfully,

Mayor of the  
City of New York.

Thos. G. Smith, Secy.

J. Taylor, Esq., Genl.  
U. S. A. Genl.

Printed and published by G. W. Wood, at the Office of the District Court of the District of Columbia, Washington, D. C.

1864





This is a facsimile of the letter from Genl Taylor to Hon. A. H. Dickle, Mayor of N. York.

Hd. Qrs Army of Occupation  
Matamoros Mexico  
June 16, 1846.

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your communication of the 23<sup>d</sup> of May, inclosing the resolutions of a large public meeting of the citizens of New York in one of which the meeting is pleased to refer in complimentary terms to the services of the Army in this quarter.

I need hardly say that the officers and soldiers of the Army of Occupation are deeply sensible to this evidence of sympathy and confidence from the citizens of New York. While conscious that they perform only their duty in whatever professional service they may render to the country, they yet derive new confidence and new strength from such manifestations of approval from the mass of their fellow citizens.

Please Sir, accept my thanks for the very courteous terms in which you have communicated the proceedings of the meeting.

His Honor

A. H. Dickle  
Mayor of the  
City of New York.

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

Your obt. servt  
J. Taylor, Lt. Genl  
U. S. Army



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LIFE OF GENERAL TAYLOR,

BY AN OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

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*Deposited in the Clerk's  
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of New York August 5 1846*



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B A T T L E S O F P A L O A L T O A N D R E S A C A D E L A P A L M A , I N 1 8 4 6 .

**With Numerous Illustrations.**

T O W H I C H I S A D D E D ,

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NEW-YORK:  
H. LONG & BROTHER, PUBLISHERS,  
32 ANN STREET.

1846.  
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**NOTICE.**

The Publishers respectfully intimate, that any corrections or alterations that may be suggested in regard to this work, will be gratefully received and attended to in subsequent editions.

# MEXICO

## SHOWING THE C







# MAP OF CENTRAL MEXICO:

SHOWING THE CONTEMPLATED ROUTE OF THE ARMY.



MAP OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
FOR THE YEAR 1800



BRASS  
BOOK







# BATTLES OF PALO ALTO AND RESACA DE LA PALMA

Fought the former May 8th and the latter May 9th 1846, between the U.S. Army of Occupation and the Mexican Grand Army of Victoria Troops, both battles resulting in the complete triumph of the U.S. Army.

Drawn by

H. D. Gillies U.S. A. S. 1846

## MEMOIR

The U. Troops 2300 strong were commanded by Gen. Taylor U.S.A.

The Mexican force 6000 strong in the 2nd and 3rd of May 1846 were commanded by Gen. Don Mariano Arista having been reinforced by the Victoria Inf. Regt.

U.S. Cavalry	→	Mexico reg. Cav	•
U.S. Inf.	→	U.S. Inf.	•
U.S. Art.	→	U.S. Art.	•
U.S. Engineers	→	U.S. Engineers	•
	→	U.S. Cavalry	•
	→	U.S. Inf.	•
	→	U.S. Art.	•
	→	U.S. Engineers	•

Col. D. K. Troops 2d U.S. Dragoon Regt. mounted the right wing U.S.A.  
Lieut. Wm. B. Mangum 1st U.S. Dragoon Regt. mounted the left wing  
Battl. of Pa's, Mex. A. L.  
Battl. of Pa's, Mex. A. L.





## PUBLISHERS' ADVERTISEMENT.

IN answer to a very generally expressed desire, on the part of the public, for a history of the life and public services of General Z. TAYLOR, the Publishers respectfully present the following pages, which contain an authentic account of the most brilliant passages in the career of the gallant soldier who, after having distinguished himself in the late war with Great Britain, and subsequently in the Florida campaign, has recently added fresh laurels to his own brow, and shed new lustre upon his country's arms, by his heroism on the banks of the Rio Grande.

The peculiar characteristics of this work are as follows :

1. It contains a succinct but clearly connected account of all the prominent events of General Taylor's life, from his infancy to the present time, selected and prepared by one who has known him for many years.

2. It contains *all* General Taylor's official despatches ever published ; *all* the reports of his subordinate officers, which, together, furnish a full and complete account of the recent battles, and several of General Taylor's general orders, never before published, copied from the order book of one of his officers. These last, considering the occasion which called them forth, and the impressive style in which they are written, are highly interesting and valuable.

3. It contains sketches of the lives of many of the officers engaged in the late contest, prepared expressly for this work, from the most authentic materials.

4. It contains, as illustrations, 1. Portrait of General Taylor, engraved by Childs from a pencil sketch. [This is the only portrait of Gen. Taylor ever published that has the slightest resemblance to his person or features.] 2. Map of the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, drawn by Lieutenant Dobbins. 3. Fac simile of the letter of Gen. Taylor to Hon. A. H. Mickle, Mayor of New-York. 4. Map of Central Mexico, showing the contemplated route of the army.

The public may rely upon the *authenticity* of the work, as it was edited by an officer of the U. S. Army, who has been familiarly acquainted with General Taylor for a series of years ; but who, in view of his position in the army, very properly declines giving his name to the public, as his ambition is to be known and honored as a *soldier*, not as an *author*.

In addition to the labors of the editor, the Publishers availed themselves of many valuable suggestions made by officers of the army, now just from the seat of war, to one of whom the proof sheets were submitted for emendation and correction.

In conclusion, the publishers return their obligations to the Hon. A. H. Mickle, Mayor of New-York, who kindly granted them the use of General Taylor's letter for copying, and to William T. Porter, Esq., Editor of the Spirit of the Times, who loaned them, for the same purpose, the plan of the battles drawn by Lieutenant Dobbins. They would likewise express their thanks to more than one of the officers of the army, who have, in many ways, aided them in getting up this publication.

H. LONG & BROTHER, 32 Ann-street.





# LIFE AND SERVICES OF GEN. ZACHARY TAYLOR.

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## CHAPTER I.

### PRIVATE LIFE.

ANCESTRY—PARENTAGE—BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD—PERSONAL APPEARANCE—TRAITS OF CHARACTER—STYLE OF HIS DESPACHES—PECUNIARY CIRCUMSTANCES, ETC.

THE brilliant events of the war upon the Rio Grande have directed the eyes of the nation to a hero who is rapidly advancing to the highest pinnacle of fame. We had been told that Americans were degenerating from the stern valor and manly fortitude of their ancestry, that we had lost the power to produce such warriors as bore the starry emblem of our freedom through the revolutionary and last wars, and that American glory, like a weed of rapid yet sickly growth, was destined to wither away under the mercenary influences of the age. The recent successes of our arms, under the command of an officer who may be justly termed one of the greatest captains of the present time, are proof to the world that the American people are fully possessed of all the elements of success in war, and that they need nothing but a proper field of action to display their military virtues and capacities to the world.

#### *Ancestry.*

The American branch of the family from which Gen. Taylor springs, originated with James Taylor, who emigrated to this country from England in the year 1692, and located himself in the eastern part of Virginia. Coming from a land where the law of primogeniture was considered next to the law of God, it was natural that he should adhere in some measure to the same opinion, even though the very goal which he sought in coming here was an indiscriminate equality among men. His own name was James, his eldest son took the same, and so of his eldest son down to the present time. It is a remarkable fact that the son has in no case died before the father; and although nearly two centuries have elapsed since the first settlement of the family in America, the prospect is still fair for a further perpetuation of an innocent prejudice. Gen. James Taylor, of Newport, Kentucky, is, at the present time, the senior; having a son of the same name, and the latter, also, one of the same name, and all in good health. Gen. Taylor of Newport, was Quartermaster General in the Army at the time of Hull's surrender, and though now near eighty years of age, continues to denounce that unfortunate individual with all the force of youthful patriotism. He is said to be worth near one million of dollars; and is the father-in-law of the Hon. John W. Tibbatts, of the House of Representatives.

The collateral branches, springing of course from the younger sons and daughters, have extended to many parts of Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky, and in fact all over the Southern States, even into Texas. Many of our most distinguished men have sprung from this family; among others, James Madison, John Taylor of Caroline, author of several well known political works, Judge Pendleton of Virginia, and Gen. Memucan Hunt. Gen. James Taylor of Newport, who as before stated is now living, and Hubbard and Richard Taylor, younger brothers, emigrated to Kentucky among the very earliest of its pioneers. The two latter took their wives with them from Virginia, but the former did not marry until some time after his location at Newport.

#### *Parentage.*

The immediate parents of the subject of this biography were the very persons who might be expected to produce so noble a son. His father was one of the most daring of that band of enterprising pioneers of the West who settled the "dark and bloody ground," to use the Indian meaning of the word Kentucky. Many instances are preserved in the traditions of that State of his desperate encounters with the savages, and Governor Scott, who was sometimes a little profane, is reported to have said that "if he had to storm the gates of Hell, he should want Dick Taylor to lead the column!" How could the son of such a sire be less than brave? His mother was a woman of lofty spirit and educated mind, devoted to her husband, and possessed of every virtue that can adorn woman in her marital and parental relations. How could the offspring of such a mother be less than a hero full of honor and manly feeling? His father was not only noted for his courage, but was a man of some eminence in the political world, having been a presidential elector in Kentucky for many years, voting for Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Clay. He died near Lexington, on the 19th of February, 1826.

#### *Birth and Childhood.*

Zachary Taylor was born in the territory of Kentucky, in 1790, whilst it was an appendage of Virginia, and two years before its admission into the Union as an independent State. We have fixed this period for his nativity upon the authority of his relative Mr. Tibbatts, who states that Gen. Taylor is now fifty-six years of age. Little is known of his early years, but from the nature of the country in which he lived, and the character of its inhabitants, we may suppose that a great part of his youth was spent in those manly occupations and amusements which are the peculiar delight of the hardy sons of the forest. Hunting, fishing, traversing the vast prairies and navigating the mighty rivers of the west, are employments fitted to train any one for the hardships and privations of war, enure him to suffering, give him unconquerable fortitude, and impart that spirit of enterprise which impels to daring achievements. That such was the effect upon young Taylor's character may be inferred from the fact that when about seventeen years of age he swam from the Kentucky shore across the Ohio river to the Indiana side and back again, without resting, in company with an older brother long since dead. The feat was performed in the month of March when the river was swollen and chill, and far surpasses the famous one of swimming the Hellespont, which is about a mile across and of delightful temperature. His old schoolmaster, Elisha Ayres, is still living at Preston in Connecticut, and says that he remembers Zachary as being a very active and sensible boy.

#### *Personal Appearance.*

Old Zack, as he is called, is about five feet nine or ten inches in height, and remarkable for the shortness of his legs in proportion to his body; he is stout

though not corpulent, and presents a straight, vigorous and muscular figure. He is very negligent about his dress, and many amusing anecdotes are told of the awkward mistakes which have occurred from his shabby attire. During the Florida campaign, a certain young officer, after receiving his commission, was ordered to join the army in that quarter. His first duty was, of course, to report himself to General Taylor. After a very tedious journey, however, through the woods, our officer arrived at a small shanty, called a tavern, about fifty miles from head quarters, where he thought proper to stay three days. There were only two visitors besides himself. One of them, an oldish, shabby looking man, with a black hat, minus part of the crown, and a piece of twine for a riband, was very inquisitive, and amongst other things, asked our officer what excuse he intended to make for his delay in reporting himself to the General.

“O,” said the officer, “they say Taylor is a very easy old soul, and I can easily make up an excuse.”

On going to bed that night, the officer asked the landlord who that impudent, inquisitive old fellow was. “Why,” said the host, “don’t you know General Taylor?”

About an hour afterwards, at midnight, the tramp of a horse’s feet was heard, making large tracks towards head quarters.

General Taylor’s eyes are grey; his hair is black, and his face has a remarkably mild and placid expression.

#### *Traits of Character.*

Possessed of wonderful presence of mind, and great coolness and sagacity in the hour of battle, he has acquired the expressive title of “Old Rough and Ready,” a phrase which is becoming rapidly as popular as Jackson’s cognomen “Old Hickory.” As an instance of his characteristic calmness in the midst of danger, it is said that during the battle of Resaca de la Palma, General Taylor was sitting on his horse in the thickest of the fight with his sword drawn, while the balls were rattling all around him. Col. C——, the amiable Sutler of the 4th, formerly mayor of Augusta, and well known for his courage and kindness of disposition, remarked to him that it was getting rather hot, and proposed to him to retire a little. “*Let’s ride a little nearer, the balls will fall behind us!*” was the General’s reply. Brave as a lion, and manly in his demeanor, he is full of generous feeling, and warmly beloved by the whole army. He is proverbially attentive to those under his command, and takes the greatest interest in their comfort and welfare. An officer who served under him in the Florida war, in conversation with us remarked that his kindness to his men and officers in illness in that sickly climate, endeared him to them as much, if not more than his gallantry in the field. During the summer of 1839, when the troops were more than decimated by the yellow and congestive fevers, he was ever to be found walking through the wards of the hospital, looking out with a keen eye for the comforts of all, soldier and officer alike. Poor Lieutenant Griffin, his favorite aid, died in the month of August, 1839, in the arms of our informant, and Taylor stood by his side in his last agony, and when the suffering spirit of that noble officer sprung up from its tenement of clay, Taylor knelt down by the rude couch of the deceased soldier and burst into tears. A heart at once so full of true bravery and tender feeling; formed for daring deeds, and still capable of softness and tears, is not often seen in this iceberg world of ours, and when it is seen is always appreciated.

We have heard several very good anecdotes related of General Taylor’s humor, which show that he is not too stern to enjoy a bit of fun. The following is one of the number:—



During the war with the Seminoles, the army was frequently supplied with corn which had become damaged by exposure to damp air.—Gen. Taylor had a horse which was called “Clay-bank,” a very good animal, but he did not particularly fancy Uncle Sam’s musty rations. The General used to partake of the same fare as the soldiers under him, and so did “Clay-bank,” so far as the corn was concerned, but he was a little dainty. The General was very fond of hominy, and musty corn made anything but a pleasant diet. He would not lay himself liable to the suspicion of “picking,” to the prejudice of the soldiers, so old “Clay-bank” would be let loose among the sacks of corn, and after smelling very carefully, the sagacious animal would commence gnawing a hole into one which pleased him. The general would watch the manœuvre until he saw “Clay-bank” had made a choice, then, calling his servant, would direct him to have “Clay-bank” stabled immediately for fear he might do mischief; but, he would say, “as the animal has gnawed a hole in the bag, take out a quart or so of the corn and make a dish of hominy.” The trick was played several times, but by and bye, it became known that whenever “Clay-bank” gnawed into a sack, sweet corn was to be found, and the incident became a standing joke during the war.

#### *Style of his Despatches.*

Brevity is said to be the soul of wit, and “Old Rough and Ready” would seem to be of opinion that military despatches should possess the same merit. All his compositions are remarkable for their succinct, plain style, and while they have no redundances, contain everything that should be said. Secretary Marcy, it is said, complained to Taylor “that his despatches were not sufficiently in detail;” to which the old General replied, “that he was sorry for it—that he put into them *all he had to say!*”

#### *Pecuniary Circumstances.*

Gen. Taylor possesses a large property, having received from his father a considerable estate, which has been much increased by prudent management. He owns a large plantation in East Feliciana parish, Louisiana, besides extensive estates in Kentucky, and houses and lots in Louisville. The largest strawberry gardens in the world are probably those on General Taylor’s estate at the mouth of the Licking river, opposite Cincinnati. They cover more than one hundred acres. He has resided for 20 years in Baton Rouge and was for some time stationed at Fort Gibson, on the Arkansas.

#### *Family.*

Gen. Taylor has one son and two daughters now living. The former was recently made the bearer of his father’s commission of Brevet Major General, which was the first Brevet granted by Congress during the war with Mexico. One of his daughters, now dead, was married to Hon. Jefferson Davis, a member of Congress from Mississippi. He is a graduate of West Point, and an accomplished orator, and has been elected to the Colonelcy of the Mississippi regiment of volunteers, ordered for service in Mexico.

Gen. Taylor married a lady of family, equal in respectability to any in Maryland. His wife was the sister of the late Major S. R. Smith, of the Marine Corps.

Lieut. Col. Joseph Taylor, Commissary of Subsistence, is a brother of Gen. Taylor, and has been attached to the army since 1812. He is a man of high standing and reputation.

## CHAPTER II.

## SERVICES DURING THE LAST WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

TAYLOR'S APPOINTMENT TO THE ARMY—BREAKING OUT OF THE WAR OF 1812—  
 INDIAN HOSTILITIES IN THE WEST—GALLANT DEFENCE OF FORT HARRISON—  
 TAYLOR BREVETTED MAJOR—INTERESTING REMINISCENCE OF THE  
 SITE OF FORT HARRISON.

*Taylor's Appointment to the Army.*

It was soon after the affair of the Chesapeake and Leopard, when a war with the mightiest empire of Europe impended over the Republic, that young Zachary Taylor, only eighteen years of age, applied for a commission in the army. He ardently desired to signalize his valor against the old enemies of his country, and hastened to obtain a position in which he might do honor to the American name. At an early age he had associated himself with one of the numerous volunteer corps of Kentucky, and obtained a high reputation for aptitude in military science, which was his favorite study. Thus possessed of every soldierly qualification, and supported by the popular feeling of his neighborhood, and the influence of his family, it is not surprising that he speedily obtained the object of his wishes. In 1808, the last year of Mr. Jefferson's second administration, and while Gen. Henry Dearborn was Secretary of War, Zachary Taylor received the appointment of Lieutenant in the 7th infantry, and commenced his military career in the regular service of the United States. Beloved and respected by his brother officers, and admired by his superiors for his strict observance of duty and distinguished merit as a disciplinarian, he was rapidly promoted, and we find him a captain in the same regiment before the

*Breaking out of the War in 1812.*

Our affairs with Great Britain had been for some time embarrassed in consequence of their violation of our rights as neutrals, and a rupture became inevitable. On the 15th of June, 1812, the President laid before Congress the correspondence between our Secretary of State and the British Government, which seemed to preclude all hope of coming to an adjustment, in the two principal points in dispute, the orders in council, and the subject of impressment. On the 18th of June, after sitting with closed doors, the solemn and important appeal to arms was announced. The President had communicated his message in which all our complaints against Great Britain were enumerated with great force, and an opinion expressed that no remedy remained but open war. The committee on foreign affairs, to whom the message was referred, concurred with the President in recommending the measure. An act of Congress was accordingly passed, which received the sanction of the President on the same day, and on the day following, the 19th of June, 1812, war was publicly proclaimed.

*Indian Hostilities in the West.*

A meeting of the citizens of Vincennes was held as early as July 1811, to memorialize President Madison to commence a war against the Indians of the North Western Territory. Various injuries and depredations had been committed by these savages, under the instigation of British agents, upon our population, and it became necessary to teach them a lesson which should repress their barbarities in future. In the year 1810, a Miami chief having received at

Fort Malden his annual donation of goods, was thus addressed by Ellicott, the British agent: "My son, keep your eyes fixed on me—*my tomahawk is up*—be you ready—but do not strike until I give the signal." So long previous as 1808, an agent from the British provinces arrived at the prophet's town among the Shawnees, and delivered a message the substance of which was to urge the prophet to unite as many tribes as he could against the United States, but not commence hostilities until they gave the *signal*. In the spring of 1811 a great belt was sent round among those tribes on our northern frontier, for the purpose of uniting them in a confederacy, the object of which was "to confine the *great water*, and prevent it from overflowing them." This belt upon its return was shown to a prominent British agent in that country who danced for joy to see that so many tribes had joined against the United States. Every account confirmed the belief that British agents among the Indians were exciting them against us, and furnishing them with arms and munitions of war. Under these circumstances it was not at all surprising that the American citizens who were more immediately threatened with this savage outbreak should desire the Government to punish the Indians by force of arms before they could be joined by their British and Canadian allies.

But through the activity of General Harrison, then Governor of the North-Western Territory, their wishes were anticipated, and troops were marched into the enemy's country before the Vincennes petition had reached the general government. On the 5th of October, 1811, the troops under the command of Gov. Harrison had advanced to a point on the Wabash river sixty-five miles above Vincennes, and after reconnoitring the country, the Governor determined on building a fort there. On the 29th of the same month the fort was completed, and at the unanimous request of the officers, was called Fort Harrison. This was afterwards the scene of one of the most daring and glorious defences in the whole war.

### *Defence of Fort Harrison.*

Through the winter of 1811-12 the army, of course, suspended its operations but in the following spring the Indians were joined by the British, and the war was resumed with additional fury. The command of Fort Harrison on the Wabash was entrusted to Captain Taylor, with a garrison of about fifty men. On the night of the 4th of September this fort was attacked by a large body of Indians, and it was then that the memorable defence was made. We might easily describe the battle from the abundance of material before us, but prefer giving an account of it in the gallant commander's own language at the time.

*Letter from Captain Z. Taylor, commanding Fort Harrison, Indian Territory, to General Harrison.*

FORT HARRISON, Sept. 10th, 1812.

DEAR SIR: On Thursday evening, the 2nd inst., after retreat beating, four guns were heard to fire in the direction where two young men (citizens who resided here) were making hay, about 400 yards distance from the Fort—I was immediately impressed with an idea that they were killed by the Indians, as the prophet's party would soon be here for the purpose of commencing hostilities, and that they had been directed to leave this place, which we were about to do. I did not think it prudent to send out at that late hour of the night, to see what had become of them, and their not coming in convinced me that I was right in my conjecture—I waited until 8 o'clock next morning, when I sent a corporal with a small party to find them, if it could be done without running too much risk of being drawn into an ambuscade. He soon sent back to inform me that he had found them both killed, and wished to know my further orders; I sent the cart and oxen, had them brought in and buried, they had been shot with two balls, scalped and cut in the most shocking manner. Late in the evening of the 4th inst., old Joseph Lenar, and between 30 and 40 Indians arrived from the Prophet's town with a white flag; among whom were about ten



women, and the men were composed of Chiefs of the different Tribes that compose the Prophet's party. A Shawanoe man, that spoke good English, informed me that old Lenar intended to speak to me next morning, and try to get something to eat. At retreat beating I examined the men's arms and found them all in good order, and completed with cartridges to 16 pounds per man. As I had not been able to mount a guard of more than six privates and two non-commissioned officers, for some time past, and sometimes part of them every other day, from the unhealthiness of the Company; I had not conceived my force adequate to the defence of this post, should it be vigorously attacked, for some time past. As I had just recovered from a severe attack of the fever, I was not able to be up much through the night. After tattoo I cautioned the guard to be *vigilant*, and ordered one of the non-commissioned officers, as the sentinels could not see every part of the garrison, to walk on the inside during the whole night, to prevent the Indians taking any advantage of us, provided they had any intention of attacking us. About 11 o'clock I was awakened by the firing of one of the sentinels. I sprung up and ran out, and ordered the men to their posts: when my orderly-sergeant (who had charge of the upper block-house) called out that the Indians had fired the lower block-house, which contained the property of the Contractor (which was deposited in the lower part, the upper having been assigned to a corporal and ten privates as an alarm post.) The guns had begun to fire pretty smartly from both sides. I directed the buckets to be got ready and water brought from the well, and the fire extinguished immediately, as it was perceivable at that time. But from debility or some other cause the men were very slow in executing my orders—the word fire appeared to throw the whole of them in confusion, and by the time they had got the water and broken open the door, the fire had unfortunately communicated to a quantity of whiskey, (the *stock* having *licked* several holes through the lower part of the building, after the salt that was stored there, through which they had introduced the fire, without being discovered as the night was very dark,) and in spite of every exertion we could make use of, in less than a moment it ascended to the roof and baffled every effort we could make to extinguish it. As that block-house joined the barracks that made part of the fortifications, most of the men immediately gave themselves up for lost, and I had the greatest difficulty in getting my orders executed—and, sir, what from the raging of the fire—the yelling and howling of several hundred Indians—the cries of 9 women and children, (a part soldiers' and a part citizens' wives who had taken shelter in the fort,) and the desponding of so many men, which was worse than all—I can assure you that my feelings were unpleasant—and indeed there were not more than ten or fifteen men able to do a great deal, the others being either sick or convalescent—and to add to our other misfortunes, two of the stoutest men in the fort, and that I had every confidence in, jumped the picket, and left us. But my presence of mind did not for a moment forsake me. I saw by throwing off part of the roof that joined the block-house that was on fire, and keeping the end perfectly wet, the whole row of buildings might be saved, and leave only an entrance of 18 or 20 feet for the Indians to enter after the house was consumed; and that a temporary breast-work might be erected to prevent their even entering there. I convinced the men that this could be accomplished, and it appeared to inspire them with new life, and never did men act with more firmness or desperation. Those that were able (while the others kept up a constant fire from the other block-house and the two bastions) mounted the roofs of the houses, with Dr. Clark at their head, (who acted with the greatest firmness and presence of mind the whole time the attack lasted, which was 7 hours,) under a shower of bullets, and in less than a moment threw off as much of the roof as was necessary. This was done with the loss of one man and two wounded, and I am in hopes neither of them dangerous,—the man that was killed was a little deranged, and did not get off of the house as soon as directed, or he would not have been hurt—and although the barracks were several times in a blaze, and an immense quantity of fire against them, the men used such exertion that they kept it under, and before day raised a temporary breastwork as high as a man's head, although the Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of ball and an innumerable quantity of arrows during the whole time it lasted, in every part of the parade. I had but one other man killed, nor any other wounded inside the fort, and he lost his life by being too anxious—he got into one of the *gullies* in the bastions, and fired over the pickets, and called out to his comrades that he had killed an Indian, and neglecting to stoop down, in an instant he was shot dead. One of the men that jumped the pickets, returned an hour before day, and running up towards the gate, begged for God's sake for it to be opened. I suspected it was a stratagem of the Indians to get in, as I did not recollect the voice—I directed the men in the bastion, where I happened to be, to shoot him, let him be who he would, and one of them fired at him, but fortunately he ran up to the other bastion, where they knew his voice, and Dr. Clark directed him to lie down close to the pickets behind an empty barrel that happened to be there—and at day-light I had him let in. His arm was broke in a most shocking manner; which he says was done by the Indians—which I suppose was the cause of his returning—I think it probable that he will not recover. The other they caught about 130 yards from the garrison, and cut him all to pieces. After keeping up a constant fire until about six o'clock the next morning, which we began to return with some effect after day-light, they removed out of reach of our guns. A party of

them drove up the horses that belonged to the citizens here, and as they could catch them readily, shot the whole of them in our sight, as well as a number of their hogs. They drove off the whole of the cattle, which amounted to 65 head, as well as the public oxen. I had the vacancy filled up before night (which was made by the burning of the block-house) with a strong row of pickets, which I got by pulling down the guard-house. We lost the whole of our provisions: but must make out to live upon green corn until we can get a supply, which I am in hopes will not be long. I believe the whole of Miamies or Weas were among the Prophet's party, as one chief gave his orders in that language, which resembled Stone Eater's voice, and I believe Negro Legs was there likewise. A Frenchman here understands their different languages, and several of the Miamies or Weas that have been frequently here, were recognized by the Frenchman and soldiers next morning. The Indians suffered smartly, but were so numerous as to take off all that were shot. They continued with us until the next morning, but made no further attempt on the fort, nor have we seen anything more of them. I have delayed informing you of my situation, as I did not like to weaken the garrison, and I looked for some person from Vincennes, and none of my men were acquainted with the woods, and therefore I would have to take the road or river, which I was fearful was guarded by small parties of Indians that would not dare to attack a company that was on a scout: but, being disappointed, I have at length determined to send a couple of my men by water, and am in hopes they will arrive safe. I think it would be best to send the provisions under a pretty strong escort, as the Indians may attempt to prevent their coming.

If you carry on an expedition against the Prophet this fall, you ought to be well provided with everything, as you may calculate on having every inch of ground disputed between this and there that they can defend with advantage.

Wishing, &c.

(Signed)

Z. TAYLOR.

His excellency Gov. HARRISON.

FORT HARRISON, Sept. 13th, 1812.

DEAR SIR: I wrote you on the 10th instant giving you an account of an attack on this place, as well as my situation, which account I attempted to send by water, but the two men whom I despatched in a canoe after night, found the river so well guarded that they were obliged to return. The Indians had built a fire on the bank of the river, a short distance below the garrison, which gave them an opportunity of seeing any craft that might attempt to pass, and were waiting with a canoe ready to intercept it. But my situation compels me to make one other attempt by land, and my orderly-sergeant with one man sets out to night, with strict orders to avoid the road in day time, and depend entirely on the woods, although neither of them have ever been in Vincennes by land, nor do they know anything of the country, but I am in hopes they will reach you in safety. I send them with great reluctance from their ignorance of the woods. I think it very probable there is a large party of Indians waylaying the road between this and Vincennes, likely about the Narrows, for the purpose of intercepting any party that may come to this place, as the cattle they got here will supply them plentifully with provisions for some time to come.

(Signed)

Z. TAYLOR.

His excellency Gov. HARRISON.

On the afternoon of the same day on which this last despatch was written, Col. Russell fortunately reached the fort at the head of some companies of rangers and Indiana militia, and relieved the garrison who were in a starving condition, their provisions having been nearly all consumed. Wagons loaded with provisions had been sent on from Vincennes under an escort of Lieutenant Fairbanks and thirteen privates of the regular troops; but they were surprised, and all killed but two or three. They were, however, soon followed by a large command, which reached the fort in safety.

The Indians were so exasperated by their failure in this expedition, that they shortly afterwards attacked the settlement at a place called Pigeon Roost, on the frontier of Clark county, and murdered twenty-one of the inhabitants, some of them women and children, with circumstances of horrid barbarity.

*Taylor Brevetted Major.*

In November, 1812, the President was pleased to confer the Brevet rank of Major on Captain Taylor, for his gallant defence of Fort Harrison.



## CHAPTER III.

## THE WAR IN FLORIDA.

TAYLOR APPOINTED TO THE COMMAND OF THE FIRST BRIGADE—BLOODY BATTLE OF LAKE OKEE-CHOBEE—TAYLOR BREVETTED BRIGADIER-GENERAL.

THE protracted and bloody war with the Seminole Indians in Florida, is a melancholy page in our country's history. Although, as a matter of course, the victory was with civilization and discipline, and the objects attained were of the greatest national importance, so many of our bravest officers and soldiers were swept away by disease, and felled by the deadly tomahawk and murderous rifle of the savage, that the conquest was dearly bought.

In that harrassing contest, no officer shone more conspicuously than the gallant Taylor. His well-known skill in Indian warfare, acquired in his brilliant career in the North Western Territory during the war of 1812-14, had secured to him the command of the First Brigade of the Army of the South, and it was at the head of that Division that he won the

*Bloody Battle of Lake Okee-Chobee.*

To describe that terrific struggle a military pen is required, and the reader must again be presented with a despatch of Gen. Taylor's.

## HEAD QUARTERS. FIRST BRIGADE.

ARMY SOUTH OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE.

Fort Gardiner, January 4, 1838.

SIR: On the 19th ultimo, I received at this place a communication from Major General Jesup, informing me that all hopes of bringing the war to a close by negotiation, through the interference, or mediation, of the Cherokee delegation, were at an end, Sam Jones, with the Mickasukies, having determined to fight it out to the last, and directing me to proceed with the least possible delay against any portion of the enemy I might hear of within striking distance, and to destroy or capture him.

After leaving two officers and an adequate force for the protection of my depot, I marched the next morning, with twelve days' rations (my means of transportation not enabling me to carry more), with the balance of my command, consisting of Captain Munroe's company of the 4th Artillery, total 35 men; the 1st Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Foster, 274; the 6th Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson, 221; the Missouri Volunteers, 150; Morgan's Spies, 47; Pioneers, 30; Pontoneers, 13; and 70 Delaware Indians, making a force, exclusive of officers, of 1032 men. The greater part of the Shawnees having been detached, and the balance refusing to accompany me, under the pretext that a number of them were sick, and the remainder were without mockasins, I moved down the west side of the Kissimmee, in a southeasterly course, towards Lake Istopoga, for the following reasons: 1st. Because I knew a portion of the hostiles were to be found in that direction; 2d. If General Jesup should fall in with the Mickasukies and drive them, they might attempt to elude him by crossing the Kissimmee, from the east to the west side of the peninsula, between this and its entrance into the Okee-chobee, in which case I might be near at hand to intercept them; 3d. To overawe and induce such of the enemy who had been making propositions to give themselves up, and who appeared very slow, if not to hesitate in complying with their promises on that head, to surrender at once; and lastly, I deemed it advisable to erect block-houses and a small picket work on the Kissimmee, for a third depot, some thirty or forty miles below this, and obtain a knowledge of the intervening country, as I had no guide who could be relied on, and by this means open a communication with Colonel Smith, who was operating up the Caloosehatchee, or Sangbel river, under my orders. Late in the evening of the first day's march, I met the Indian chief Jumper, with his family and a part of his band, consisting of fifteen men, a part of them with families, and a few negroes, in all sixty-three souls, on his way to give himself up, in conformity to a previous arrangement I had entered into with him. They were conducted by Captain Parks and a few Shawnees. He (Parks) is an active, intelligent half-breed, who is at the head of the friendly Indians, both Shawnees and Delawares, and who I had employed to

arrange and bring in Jumper and as many of his people as he could prevail on to come in. We encamped that night near the same spot, and the next morning, having ordered Captain Parks to join me and take command of the Delawares, and having dispatched Jumper, in charge of some Shawnees, to this place, and so on to Fort Frazier, I continued my march, after having sent forward three friendly Seminoles to gain intelligence as to the position of the enemy. About noon the same day, I sent forward one battalion of Gentry's regiment, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Price, to pick up any stragglers that might fall in his way, to encamp two or three miles in advance of the main force, to act with great circumspection, and to communicate promptly any occurrence that might take place in his vicinity important for me to know.

About 10, P.M., I received a note from the colonel, stating that the three Seminoles sent forward in the morning had returned; that they had been at or where Alligator had encamped, twelve or fifteen miles in his advance; that he (Alligator) had left there with a part of his family four days before, under the pretext of separating his relations, &c., from the Mickasukies, preparatory to his surrendering with them; that there were several families remaining at the camp referred to, who wished to give themselves up, and would remain there until we took possession of them, unless they were forcibly carried off that night by the Mickasukies, who were encamped at no great distance from them. In consequence of this intelligence, after directing Lieutenant-Colonel Davenport to follow me early in the morning with the infantry, a little after midnight I put myself at the head of the residue of the mounted men and joined Lieutenant-Colonel Price, proceeded on, crossing Istopoga outlet, and soon after daylight took possession of the encampment referred to, where I found the inmates, who had not been disturbed. They consisted of an old man, and two young ones, and several women and children, amounting in all to twenty-two individuals. The old man informed me that Alligator was very anxious to separate his people from the Mickasukies, who were encamped on the opposite side of the Kissimmee, distant about twenty miles, where they would fight us. I sent him to Alligator to say to him, if he were sincere in his professions, to meet me next day at the Kissimmee, where the trail I was marching on crossed, and where I should halt. As soon as the infantry came up I moved on to the place designated, which I reached late that evening, and where I encamped. About 11, P.M., the old Indian returned, bringing a very equivocal message from Alligator, who, he stated, he had met accidentally; also, that the Mickasukies were still encamped where they had been for some days, and where they were determined to fight us.

I determined at once on indulging them as soon as practicable. Accordingly, next morning, after laying out a small stockade work for the protection of a future depot, in order to enable me to move with the greatest celerity, I deposited the whole of my heavy baggage, including artillery, &c., and having provisioned the command to include the 26th, after leaving Captain Munroe with his company, the pioneer pontoneers, with eighty-five sick and disabled infantry, and a portion of the friendly Indians, who alleged that they were unable to march farther, crossed the Kissimmee, taking the old Indian as a guide who had been captured the day before, and who accompanied us with great apparent reluctance, in pursuit of the enemy, and early the next day reached Alligator's encampment, situated on the edge of Cabbage-tree Hammock, in the midst of a large prairie, from the appearance of which, and other encampments in the vicinity, and the many evidences of slaughtered cattle, there must have been several hundred individuals.

At another small hammock, at no great distance from Alligator's encampment, and surrounded by a swamp, impassable for mounted men, the spies surprised an encampment containing one old man, four young men, and some women and children.

One of the party immediately raised a white flag, when the men were taken possession of, and brought across the swamp to the main body. I proceeded with an interpreter to meet them. They proved to be Seminoles, and professed to be friendly. They stated that they were preparing to come in; they had just slaughtered a number of cattle, and were employed in drying and jerking the same. They also informed me that the Mickasukies, headed by A-vi-a-ka (Sam Jones), was some ten or twelve miles distant encamped in a swamp, and were prepared to fight.

Although I placed but little confidence in their professions of friendship, or their intentions of coming in, yet I had no time to look up their women and children, who had fled and concealed themselves in the swamp, or to have encumbered myself with them in the situation in which I then was. Accordingly, I released the old man, who promised that he would collect all the women and children and take them in to Captain Munroe, at the Kissimmee, the next day. I also dismissed the old man who had acted as guide thus far, supplying his place with the four able warriors who had been captured that morning.

These arrangements being made, I moved under their guidance for the camp of the Mickasukies. Between two and three, P.M., we reached a very dense cypress swamp, through which we were compelled to pass, and in which our guide informed us we might be attacked. After making the necessary dispositions for battle, it was ascertained that there was no enemy to oppose us. The army crossed over and encamped for the night, it being late. During the passage of the rear, Captain Parks, who was in advance with a few friend-



ly Indians, fell in with two of the enemy's spies, between two and three miles of our camp, one on horseback, the other on foot, and succeeded in capturing the latter. He was an active young warrior, armed with an excellent rifle, fifty balls in his pouch, and an adequate proportion of powder. This Indian confirmed the information which had been previously received from the other Indians, and, in addition, stated that a large body of Seminoles, headed by John Cohua, Co-a-coo-chee, and, no doubt, Alligator, with other chiefs, were encamped five or six miles from us, near the Mickasukies, with a cypress swamp and dense hammock between them and the latter. The army moved forward at daylight the next morning, and after marching five or six miles, reached the camp of the Seminoles on the border of another cypress swamp, which must have contained several hundred, and bore evident traces of having been abandoned in a great hurry, as the fires were still burning, and quantities of beef lying on the ground unconsumed. Here the troops were again disposed of in order of battle, but we found no enemy to oppose us; and the command was crossed over about 11, A.M., when we entered a large prairie in our front, on which two or three hundred head of cattle were grazing, and a number of Indian ponies.

Here another young Indian warrior was captured, armed and equipped as the former. He pointed out a dense hammock on our right, about a mile distant, in which he said the hostiles were situated, and waiting to give us battle. At this place the final disposition was made to attack them, which was in two lines, the Volunteers under Gentry, and Morgan's Spies, to form the first line in extended order, who were instructed to enter the hammock, and in the event of being attacked and hard pressed, were to fall back in rear of the regular troops, out of reach of the enemy's fire; the second was composed of the 4th and 6th infantry, who were instructed to sustain the volunteers, the 1st infantry being held in reserve. Moving on in the direction of the hammock, after proceeding about a quarter of a mile, we reached the swamp which separated us from the enemy, three quarters of a mile in breadth, being totally impassable for horses, and nearly so for foot, covered with a thick growth of saw grass five feet high, and about knee deep in mud and water, which extended to the left as far as the eye could reach, and to the right to a part of the swamp and hammock we had just crossed through, ran a deep creek. At the edge of the swamp the men were dismounted, and the horses and baggage left under a suitable guard. Captain Allen was detached with the two companies of mounted infantry to examine the swamp and hammock to the right, and in case he should not find the enemy in that direction, was to return to the baggage, and in the event of his hearing a heavy firing to join me immediately. After making these arrangements, I crossed the swamp in the order stated. On reaching the borders of the hammock, the volunteers and spies received a heavy fire from the enemy, which was returned by them for a short time, when their gallant commander, Colonel Gentry, fell mortally wounded. They mostly broke; and instead of forming in the rear of the regulars, as had been directed, they retired across the swamp to their baggage and horses, nor could they be again brought into action as a body, although efforts were made repeatedly by my staff to induce them to do so. The enemy, however, were promptly checked and driven back by the 4th and 6th infantry, which in truth might be said to be a moving battery. The weight of the enemy's fire was principally concentrated on five companies of the 6th infantry, which not only stood firm, but continued to advance until their gallant commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson, and his adjutant, Lieutenant Center, were killed, and every officer, with one exception, as well as most of the non-commissioned officers, including the serjeant-major and four of the orderly serjeants, killed and wounded of those companies, when that portion of the regiment retired to a short distance and were again formed, one of these companies having but four members left untouched.

Lieutenant-Colonel Foster, with six companies, amounting in all to one hundred and sixty men, gained the hammock in good order, where he was joined by Captain Noel with the two remaining companies of the 6th infantry, and Captain Gillam, of Gentry's Volunteers, with a few additional men, continued to drive the enemy for a considerable time, and by a change of front, separated his line and continued to drive him until he reached the great lake, Okee-chobee, which was in the rear of the enemy's position, and on which their encampment extended for more than a mile. As soon as I was informed that Captain Allen was advancing, I ordered the 1st infantry to move to the left, gain the enemy's right flank, and turn it, which order was executed in the promptest manner possible, and as soon as that regiment got in position, the enemy gave one fire and retreated, being pursued by the 1st, 4th, and 6th, and some of the volunteers who had joined them, until near night, and until these troops were nearly exhausted, and the enemy driven in all directions. The action was a severe one, and continued from half-past twelve until three, P.M., a part of the time very close and severe.

We suffered much, having twenty-six killed, and one hundred and twelve wounded, among whom are some of our most valuable officers. The hostiles probably suffered, all things considered, equally with ourselves, they having left ten dead on the ground, besides, doubtless, carrying off more, as is customary with them when practicable. As soon as the enemy were completely broken, I turned my attention to taking care of the wounded, to facilitate their removal to my baggage, where I ordered an encampment to be formed. I di-

rected Captain Taylor to cross over to the spot, and employ every individual whom he might find there in constructing a small footway across the swamp; this, with great exertions, was completed in a short time after dark, when all the dead and wounded were carried over in litters made for the purpose, with one exception, a private of the 4th infantry, who was killed and could not be found. And here I trust I may be permitted to say that I experienced one of the most trying scenes of my life, and he who could have looked on it with indifference, his nerves must have been differently organized from my own. Besides the killed, there lay one hundred and twelve wounded officers and soldiers, who had accompanied me one hundred and forty-five miles, most of the way through an unexplored wilderness, without guides, who had so gallantly beaten the enemy, under my orders, in his strongest position, and who had to be conveyed back, through swamps and hammocks, from whence we set out, without any apparent means of doing so. This service, however, was encountered and overcome, and they have been conveyed thus far, and proceeded on to Tampa Bay on rude litters, constructed with the axe and knife alone with poles and dry hides—the latter being found in great abundance at the encampment of the hostiles. The litters were carried on the backs of our weak and tottering horses, aided by the residue of the command, with more ease and comfort to sufferers than I could have supposed, and with as much as they could have been in ambulances of the most improved and modern construction. The day after the battle we remained at our encampment, occupied in taking care of the wounded, and in the sad office of interring the dead; also, in preparing litters for the removal of the wounded, and collecting, with a portion of the mounted men, the horses and cattle in the vicinity belonging to the enemy, of which we found about one hundred of the former, many of them saddled, and nearly three hundred of the latter. We left our encampment on the morning of the 27th, for the Kissimmee, where I had left my heavy baggage, which place we reached about noon on the 28th. After leaving two companies and a few Indians to garrison the stockade, which I found nearly completed on my return by that active and vigilant officer, Captain Munroe, 4th Artillery, I left the next morning for this place, where I arrived on the 31st, and sent forward the wounded next day to Tampa Bay, with the 4th and the 6th infantry, the former to halt at Fort Frazer, remaining here myself with the 1st, in order to make preparations to take the field again as soon as my horses can be recruited, most of which have been sent to Tampa, and my supplies in a sufficient state of forwardness to justify the measure.

Though Col. Taylor won the day, it was at an expense of 130 killed and wounded, about one-fourth of his whole force. Two Colonels, (Col. Thompson, of the 6th Infantry, and Col. Gentry, of the Missouri Volunteers,) fell at the head of the troops. Capt. Van Swearingen, and Lieutenants Brooke and Carter, also fell in the engagement :

During the whole of the engagement Col. Taylor remained on horseback, passing from point to point, cheering his men to the conflict, and exposed to the Indian rifle at every moment. The spirit with which the commander and all his force entered into the conflict, was exhibited in some verses written on the occasion, by a soldier.

“ There’s battle in yon hammock black,  
 There’s lightning in yon cloud :  
 Hark ! hark ! to the music comrades dear,  
 For the Indian yell is loud.  
 For the Indian yell is loud, my boys,  
 And the rifle’s flash is free ;  
 But the field of battle is our home,  
 And happy, happy men are we :  
 And happy men are we,” &c.

*Taylor Brevetted Brigadier-General.*

For this battle, Mr. Poinsett, secretary of war, rendered merited praise to an engaged, in his communication to Congress. The brevet of Brigadier-General was conferred on Col. Taylor, and he was given the chief command in Florida; which he resigned in 1840, after four or five years’ arduous and indefatigable service in the swamps and hammocks of Florida.

After his retirement from Florida, he was assigned to the command of the first department of the Army including the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, &c. with his head quarters at Fort Jesup, Louisiana.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE WAR WITH MEXICO.

TAYLOR ORDERED TO TEXAS—ESTABLISHES HIS QUARTERS AT CORPUS CHRISTI—MOVEMENTS OF THE MEXICANS—TAYLOR MARCHES TO THE RIO GRANDE—MURDER OF COL. CROSS—LIEUT. PORTER AND THREE MEN KILLED—SURPRISE AND SURRENDER OF CAPT. THORNTON'S COMMAND—DANGER OF POINT ISABEL—CAPT. WALKER'S RANGERS—BOMBARDMENT OF MATAMORAS AND FORT BROWN—BATTLE OF PALO ALTO—BATTLE OF RESACA DE LA PALMA—OFFICIAL DESPATCHES—EFFECT OF THE VICTORIES—TAYLOR CROSSES THE RIO GRANDE—SUBSEQUENT EVENTS.

It would be superfluous to narrate here all the circumstances connected with the annexation of Texas, or to give details of the difficulties with Mexico. They are well known to the world, and, moreover, foreign to the legitimate objects of this sketch. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to those movements in which our hero has been personally concerned.

On the 27th of May, 1845, the Secretary of War addressed a communication to General Taylor, then at Fort Jesup, Louisiana, directing him to place the forces under his command, and such as might subsequently be assigned to him, in a position where they could most promptly and efficiently act in defence of Texas, in case it should become necessary or proper to employ them for that purpose. General Taylor was instructed not to enter Texas except in pursuit of Indians invading that republic from the territory of the United States, and with the approbation of the Texan authorities.

*Taylor ordered to Texas.*

On the 15th of June, 1845, a communication was addressed to General Taylor, by Mr. Bancroft, then acting Secretary of War, informing him that on the 4th of July then ensuing, or very soon after, the convention of the people of Texas would probably accept the proposition of annexation tendered by the Congress of the United States, and instructing him (General Taylor), in anticipation of this event, to advance to the mouth of the Sabine, or to such other point on the Gulf of Mexico as he might judge most convenient for an embarkation at the proper time for the western frontier of Texas. In this despatch the secretary uses the following language: "The point of your ultimate destination is the western frontier of Texas, where you will select and occupy, on or near the Rio Grande del Norte, such a site as will consist with the health of the troops, and will be best adapted to repel invasion, and to protect what, in the event of annexation, will be our western border. You will limit yourself to the defence of the territory of Texas, unless Mexico shall declare war against the United States."

As was anticipated, the convention of Texas, on the 4th of July, 1845, by an unanimous vote, accepted the terms of annexation offered by the Congress of the United States.

*Establishes his Quarters at Corpus Christi.*

About the same time General Taylor received a letter from Mr. Donaldson, our minister in Texas, informing him of the unanimous act of the Texan convention, accepting the terms of annexation proffered by Congress. On the next day after receiving this information he left New Orleans by steamboat, with a portion of his troops, for western Texas, agreeably to previous instructions, and arrived at St. Joseph's Island (Aransas Inlet) July 25th, and soon after established his quarters at Corpus Christi, on the west side of the river Neuces, near its mouth.



*Movements of the Mexicans.*

The Mexican minister of war, General Almonte, on the 6th of March, 1845, at Washington, had protested against the annexation of Texas, demanded his passports, abruptly left the United States, and the functions of our minister in Mexico were put an end to. General Almonte, the Secretary of War, and General Paredes, at Mexico, announced that he was "preparing for the Texas campaign." Accordingly, loans were raised, and large bodies of troops moved to Texas. The public journals of Matamoras, the city of Mexico, and Vera Cruz, announced the war; all unattached officers of the Mexican troops were ordered to their army on the Bravo for the invasion of Texas; and it was said the Mexican war establishment was to be increased to sixty thousand men. General Arista, suspected of good will to this country, was superseded in command by General Ampudia on the Texas frontier, who arrived at Matamoras on the 11th of April, 1846, with 200 cavalry, followed by 2000 men of his reinforcement not far behind, on their way to join the 2000 soldiers already at Matamoras. As soon as he arrived there, he ordered, on the 12th of April, General Taylor to evacuate the posts he held, and all Americans, with their consul, to quit Matamoras.

*Taylor marches to the Rio Grande.*

General Taylor, with his army, left Corpus Christi for the Rio Grande, between the 8th and 11th of March, and arrived at his encampment opposite Matamoras March 28th. On his march he was met at two or three points, particularly on the banks of the Sal Colorado, or Colorado creek, by Mexican troops, but offered them no molestation. When, however, they threatened to dispute his passage by force of arms, he warned them that it would be at their peril. When he arrived at Point Isabel he was met by a deputation of 50 armed citizens, with some functionary at their head, who presented him a paper, protesting against his occupying the country. The General did not stop to discuss the matter with them, but told them very concisely, "He would give them an answer when he reached Matamoras." He had the Point surveyed with a view to its defence, and a work was thrown up under the superintendence of Capt. Saunders of the Engineers.

About 11 o'clock on the morning of the 28th, he reached the river, opposite the city of Matamoras; hundreds of persons were discovered on the opposite banks, watching the approach of the hostile army. The Mexican colors were flying from the quarters of the commander, Gen. Mejia, from the Place d'Artilerie, and from the quarters of the Sappers and Miners. Two of the advanced guard of the Dragoons, being some distance from the main body, were pounced upon by a party of Mexicans and carried off prisoners to Matamoras; a little bugler boy was dismounted, and his horse taken from him. Gen. Worth was deputed by Gen. Taylor, to open communications with the commander of the Mexican forces, and bear to him an answer to the above mentioned deputation. It was some time before the Mexicans would send a boat over. At last one came, and Gen. Worth communicated with a General of the Mexican forces. He returned to his chief, who sent, as an answer, that he would neither receive Gen. Worth nor the communication of Gen. Taylor. Another talk was held and the answer to it was, that Gen. Mejia would receive the communication, but not Gen. Worth. He however sent his second in command, Gen. De La Vega, to meet him. Gen. W. crossed, and they met on the opposite side. Their interview resulted in nothing. Gen. W. could not effect an interview with Gen. Mejia. They spoke of the arrival of the American forces as an act of invasion; and esteemed it as such, and asked the question, "What we would have done if we had been served so?"

Gen. WORTH did not touch the subject of the taking of the dragoons, leaving that subject until after a friendly interview should be established.

Immediately after the arrival of our army, a flag staff was erected, and soon thereafter the glorious stars and stripes were seen floating on the banks of the Rio Grande, proclaiming in a silent but impressive manner, that the "area of freedom" was again extended. In his interview with Gen. WORTH, Gen. DE LA VEGA complained of the elevation of the American flag. Gen. W. told him "it was a matter of taste, but that no sight was so glorious to him as that of the flag of his country floating in the breeze." Subsequently to this, Gen. Taylor demanded the return of the dragoons who were captured, and they were returned, with nearly all their equipments. They had been imprisoned, but treated with much kindness. When the order for their return was given, there was considerable difficulty in collecting their effects; it appears they had been divided among the captors, and were to be kept as trophies.

By the 8th of April a small field-work had been completed, in which were mounted four eighteen pounders. In the mean time the troops were actively engaged in throwing up a field work of six bastion fronts, calculated to hold two regiments.

On the 12th, about 2 P. M., a parley was sounded from the opposite side, and two Mexican officers crossed, and were escorted by Capt. B. to Gen. Taylor's tent. The officers bore a communication from Gen. Ampudia to Gen. Taylor. The General was told that "he must quit his position in *twenty-four hours*, and retire to the Neuces, and there await the settlement of this question by negotiation, in default of which, Mexico would look upon his position as a declaration of war." He said "that the war should be carried on agreeably to the usages of the most civilized nations, by him, and he hoped it would be so by us." Every disposition was immediately made to resist the attack. The 1st Brigade was immediately moved to the right out of reach of shot. Gen. Taylor replied to the messengers, that he did not want *twenty-four hours*, but would reply to them at 10 A. M. on the 12th.

On the morning of the 13th, the 2d Brigade was moved to the left, out of reach of shot, and the 3d Brigade, with Lieut. DUNCAN'S and BRAGG'S Companies of Artillery, occupied the field-work. At 10, Gen. Taylor's answer was sent over. It was mild, dignified, concise and firm—perfectly characteristic of the man. He told Gen. A. "that he was sent here by order of his Government, in a peaceable attitude, and *intended to remain*—and then warned him against assuming the responsibility of firing the first gun." Gen. Taylor now blockaded the river, and thus cut off their supplies.

On the 22d Gen. AMPUDIA wrote in effect to Gen. Taylor, "that he had understood from undoubted authority, that the river was blockaded, that two vessels laden with stores for his army, had been seized and carried into Brazos Santiago. That he thought this blockade, under the present circumstances, was unauthorized by the law of nations, and requested him to raise it, or serious consequences would ensue." Gen. Taylor replied in his manly and characteristic style, reviewing everything that had occurred since his departure from Corpus Christi. Spoke of the order he had issued just prior to his departure, in which he said that he "would protect the civil and religious rights of the citizens," reminded him that a Spanish translation had been sent to Matamoras, and that he *knew* Gen. Meija had seen it: he stated that on his march his advance was met some twenty miles from the Colorado, and were warned that if they advanced it would be considered a "declaration of war;" at the Colorado they threatened to fire upon him, and again repeated the "declaration of war;"—that at Point Isabel, he was met by a deputation, at the head of which was the Prefect of the State of Tamaulipas, from Matamoras, protesting against his occupying the country, and again repeating the "declaration of war." After delivering the protest they

set fire to some houses, which act the General looked upon as an "act of war." Opposite Matamoras he was again told his occupation of the country was looked upon as "an act of war." To all these declarations of hostile intentions Gen. Taylor paid no heed, but pursued the peaceful tenor of his way. But, when Gen. Ampudia arrived, and gave him "24 hours' notice to quit," he deemed it time to turn his attention to them, and conceived "that the blockade of the river was the least offensive act of war that he could have committed, under the circumstances; that the blockade had been reported to the Government, and that he *should maintain it* until he received their orders. He offered them an armistice until this question was settled or war declared, and if that was accepted he would raise the blockade, but on no other terms. He told him that he could not pass over the objectionable style and tone of his (A.'s) correspondence—that the epithets of 'usurpers,' 'invaders,' &c., would not pass, and told him plainly, that in future his communications must be more respectful, or they would not be received; and in concluding, gave him his choice of action, and told him that he was equally ready and prepared for peace *or* war."

#### *Murder of Colonel Cross.*

Colonel Cross, who was commissary general of the army, was in the daily habit of riding alone a short distance from the camp. On the morning of the 10th of April, he rode out, unaccompanied, to the house of a German, about two miles from the army, and was taken prisoner by a party of Mexican Rancheros. As soon as he was missing, General Taylor sent a detachment of men, who scoured the country in search of him, but to no purpose.

Two or three days after, Captain May, of the 2d Dragoons, took a runaway negro in the neighborhood of the same place where Colonel Cross was captured, and from this negro the above information of the taking of Colonel Cross was obtained. Immediately after, General Taylor sent a messenger to the Mexican general, requesting information whether Colonel Cross was a prisoner with him or not. The next day General Ampudia sent several officers to the American camp, with the answer that they knew nothing of Colonel Cross, but that they had made Lieutenant Deas a prisoner.

This officer, it appears, had previously crossed the river (but without orders) in search of Colonel Cross (who was his particular friend), and had fallen into the hands of the Mexicans. Subsequently the body of Colonel Cross was found about four miles below the camp, entirely stripped, and from the wounds, it was evident that he had been murdered. Under this impression, General Taylor made a formal demand for the murderer, but he was never discovered. The body of the gallant soldier was taken to the camp and buried with appropriate honors.

#### *Lieutenant Porter and Three Men Killed.*

Another annoying act of Mexican hostility occurred on the 19th, all conspiring to prepare the American soldiers for the brilliant successes which were soon to follow. On the morning of the 19th, Lieutenant Porter, of the 4th Regiment (son of the late Commodore Porter), being out with a fatigue party of ten men, were fired upon when within a few miles of the camp. Lieutenant Porter and three of his men were killed in the attack, the rest of the party escaping returned to the camp the next day.

General Taylor's camp extended about four miles along the river bank—two miles above, and two miles below Matamoras. The entrenchment, to erect which required twenty-three hundred men for thirty days, was made of sand, and covered over with twigs woven together like basket-work, surrounded by a



very wide and deep ditch. The walls of the magazine, in the interior of the fortification, were formed of pork barrels filled with sand, seven tier thick, four tier high, covered over with timber, on which sand was piled ten or twelve feet. Twelve heavy pieces of ordnance were so placed as to command the town of Matamoras.

#### *Surprise and Surrender of Capt. Thornton's Command.*

On the evening of the 23d of April, Gen. Taylor's spies brought in intelligence to the effect that about 2,500 Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande to the Texas side above the American Fort, and that about 1500 of the same had crossed below.

Gen. T. immediately dispatched a squadron of dragoons to each place of crossing for the purpose of reconnoitering them and ascertaining their position. The squadron ordered below was in command of Capt. Ker, the one above was commanded by Capt. Thornton and composed of Capt. Hardee, Lieuts. Kane and Mason, with sixty-one privates and non-commissioned officers.

The former commander, Capt. Ker, on arriving at the point where it was supposed they had crossed found that the report was false, that they had not crossed there but had all crossed above, which was afterwards proved by Capt. T.'s command being surprised, in which Lieut. Geo. Mason with nine men were killed and two wounded.

The wounded were sent to Gen. Taylor's camp, the army having no hospital in the field. Capts. Thornton, Hardee and Lieut. Kane miraculously escaped, together with the balance of the non-commissioned officers and men, but were captured and taken to Matamoras.

The circumstances which led to the surprise are these: After Capt. Thornton's command had proceeded up the Rio Grande about twenty-four miles, and as was supposed, to within about three miles of the Mexican camp, the guide refused to go any farther, and stated for his reason that the whole country was infested with Mexicans.

Capt. Thornton however, proceeded on with his command about two miles when he came to a farm-house, which was enclosed entirely by a chaparral fence, with the exception of that portion of it which bordered on the river, and this was so boggy as to be impassable. Capt. T. entered this enclosure through a pair of bars, and approached the house for the purpose of making some inquiry, his command following him. When they had all entered the enclosure, the enemy having been concealed in the chaparral, about two thousand five hundred in number, completely surrounded him and commenced firing upon his command. He then wheeled his command, thinking that he could charge through the enemy and pass out where he had entered, not however without a considerable loss. This he attempted, but did not succeed, the enemy being too strong.

At this instant, Capt. Hardee approached him for the purpose of advising him how to extricate themselves. The fire of the enemy still continuing, Capt. Thornton's horse, having received a shot, ran away with him and leaped the *chaparral* fence and plunged into a precipice, where he fell, with Capt. T. under him, where the latter remained insensible for five or six hours.

This casualty placed Capt. Hardee in command, who attempted with the residue to make his escape by the river, intending on arriving at its margin to swim it. In this he failed, finding it so boggy that he could not get to it. He then returned, taking the precaution to get out of distance of musketry, dismounted and examined the arms of his men, determining to sell their lives as dearly as possible.

Before he had succeeded, however, in the inspection of his arms, a Mexican officer rode up and asked him to surrender. Capt. H. replied that he would

surrender on one condition, which was, that if the Mexican General would receive them as prisoners of war, and treat them as the most civilized nations do, he would surrender, but on no other conditions.

The Mexican officer bore this message to the General commanding, and returned with the assurance that he would. Capt. H. then surrendered.

#### *Danger of Point Isabel.*

Whilst General Taylor was thus busily engaged in fortifying his camp opposite Matamoras, the danger of his situation was hourly increasing. All communication between Point Isabel and the American entrenchments, opposite Matamoras, had been cut off; and the Mexicans were in force upon either flank and in the rear of the army. Though the field works of General Taylor were so scientifically constructed that there was not any apprehension that they could be carried by storm, yet the posture of affairs was very unsatisfactory.

The army was surrounded by numerous bodies of troops; the enemy was being reinforced by daily acquisitions; several companies of Americans, sent out upon scouting service, had been cut to pieces or captured; in every encounter the United States had suffered; and it was feared that Point Isabel had been carried by overwhelming numbers, and serious apprehensions were fast gaining upon the public mind for the safety of the entire army.

Had Point Isabel been carried, there would have been abundant grounds for all the alarm that was felt. The supplies of the army would have been entirely cut off, and a position necessary to the efficiency of military operations upon the Rio Grande would have been in possession of the enemy; the entrenchments thrown up by the American soldiery would have been available for the Mexican defence, and our transports entering the Laguna del Madre might have been intercepted by the guns of the foe.

#### *Captain Walker's Rangers.*

On the 28th of April, Captain Walker, with a small force of rangers, left Point Isabel to reconnoitre, and, if possible, open a communication with General Taylor. He had proceeded as far as about midway between Point Isabel and the Camp, when an overwhelming Mexican force approached suddenly. A portion of his troops were raw recruits, he instructed them to keep on his right and gave orders to the whole to retire under cover of the chaparral in view, but his raw troops, panic-stricken, scattered in confusion.

The Mexicans advancing with overwhelming numbers, he gave orders to retire. He was followed until within a mile of Point Isabel, where he arrived with only two of his men; six others subsequently came in.

At this juncture, General Taylor resolved to march to the relief of that post, however dangerous the enterprise might prove. He thought he would have to cut his way through a numerous enemy, posted advantageously upon the route; but, as a military man, he saw the necessity of the Point to his army, and determined, at whatever hazard, to reach it. Accordingly, on the 1st, the defences on the river being nearly completed, General Taylor left a garrison of some 500 men under Major Brown, of the 7th Infantry, and marched with the remainder of his army (twenty-seven miles) to Point Isabel. Not an enemy was seen in the whole distance. All apprehensions for the safety of that depot of supplies were thus dissipated.

#### *Bombardment of Matamoras and Fort Brown.*

On Sunday morning, the 3rd, about day break, the Mexicans, taking advantage of Gen. Taylor's absence, opened a heavy cannonading upon the American fort, throwing balls and shells with little intermission, until near midnight. In



the meantime, the enemy's guns, all but one mortar, were silenced by our fort. Major Brown lost one sergeant, who was shot in the head by a 3 pound ball; he was taken to the hospital, and there a shell fell and blew off the remainder of his head. By the explosion of another shell, an artillery soldier was wounded.

Early on the morning of the 4th, the Mexicans opened again, sending shot and shells, but without doing any material damage. In half an hour after the firing commenced, Maj. Brown's artillery had silenced the enemy, having greatly damaged three of their embrasures, dismounted several guns, and killed a number of the men. Early next morning, the fire was recommenced from the enemy's batteries, which was promptly returned from an 18 pounder battery, and a six pounder howitzer. The firing continued for an hour; during which time the enemy fired about fifty rounds of shots and shells, and received thirty rounds of both calibre. Both batteries ceased firing at the same time. The Mexicans now concluded to alter their plan of attack; for which purpose a party was sent in the rear, and there established a battery. At 5 o'clock, the following morning, the cannonade commenced from the lower fort and mortar battery. Round shot and shells were thrown until six o'clock, when there was a cessation of firing. During the hour their missiles were well directed, bursting in all directions in the interior of the fort, tearing the tents to pieces, and injuring several horses. At half-past six o'clock the signal 18-pounders were fired, at which the enemy opened their batteries in our front and rear, and the cannonade continued from two mortars and a howitzer in front, and a mortar established at or near the cross-roads in rear until ten o'clock, A. M., when the gallant commander, Major Brown, received a mortal wound from a falling shell. Large mounted parties and infantry were seen at this time in the rear. At 7 o'clock the enemy had one mortar playing upon the fort from town, and two from the rear. At ten o'clock a small party of infantry crept up a ravine and fired musketry; but, being out of range, the fire was not returned. At half-past 10 o'clock, A. M., several parties of infantry and mounted men were seen surrounding us in rear. Several rounds of canister were fired from Lieutenant Bragg's battery, which soon dispersed them. Immediately afterwards, and until half-past twelve o'clock, P. M., our gallant band received a continual shower of shells from the enemy's batteries. About two o'clock the firing ceased, and at half-past four a white flag was shown in the rear, and a parley sounded by the enemy. Two Mexican officers advanced, and were met by two American officers. They bore a letter from Gen. Arista, asking the American commander, "for the sake of humanity," to surrender, and gave him one hour to reply.

Captain Hawkins, who had assumed the command, since the death of the lamented Brown, received the communication, and immediately convoked a council, consisting of all the company commanders in his command, and laid it before them. They unanimously concurred with Capt. Hawkins, to decline a surrender of his forces, and immediately despatched the laconic answer, that they did not understand Spanish. Shortly after its reception, the enemy's batteries opened afresh with a continual shower of shot and shells until sunset, and thus ended the fourth day's bombardment.

The enemy's batteries were again opened at half past five the next morning, and continued throwing shot and shells with frequent intermissions until 2 o'clock P. M., when small parties of infantry commenced the attack with musketry from the banks of the river, and from the ravine; this kind of warfare was kept up until near daylight the next morning. During this day the enemy succeeded in wounding a sentinel in the arm, and destroying a few hundred dollars' worth of camp property.

The bombardment during the last two days was more spirited and exciting than the preceding, and is so graphically described by Capt. Hawkins, who was then in command, that we present it to the reader as found in his official report.

*Friday, May 8.*—At a quarter past 5 o'clock A. M., the enemy's batteries again opened with shells from the lower fort, from the sand-bag battery, and from our rear. The fire this morning was kept up until 8 o'clock, A. M. without cessation. A party was sent out this morning, and burnt the old houses near the traverse on the river bank. This drew from them several round shot and shells; from 12 to half past 2 P. M., a heavy bombardment of shells was kept up; at least fifty thrown at us during that time. At half past three they again opened their shells upon us, accompanied by round shot. At this time the enemy had established a mortar in the ridge of chaparral across the river, and immediately west of us. Mortars were now playing upon us from the north, south, and west, four in number. The firing of round shot was kept up for two hours, and that of shells until half past 7 P. M. About half past 2 P. M., a heavy cannonading was heard, supposed to be a little north of east of us; it apparently approached until half past 4, when it became very distinct; it lasted until nearly 7 P. M. This we supposed to be an action between our forces and the enemy. A little before sunset a Mexican came running in with a white flag, from the direction of the second brigade guard-house, claiming protection. He stated that our forces had come in contact with those of the enemy; had driven them back; that he was a prisoner in charge of the picket guards fired on by our batteries, that while they were burying the dead and carrying off the wounded, he effected his escape. During the cannonade this afternoon, a small column of infantry from above, and one of cavalry from below, were seen advancing, supposed to be reinforcements to the enemy. The excitement in our command, during this distant cannonading, was intense. During the day we received from one hundred and fifty to two hundred shells, and from seventy-five to one hundred round shot, and not a man disabled. During the previous night, the halliards of the flag on the outside had become unrigged; and as the firing had become too intense to re-establish them, a temporary staff was erected on the inside, and the national flag of the seventh infantry raised as a substitute. We passed a very quiet night; the troops on the alert at their guns.

*Saturday, May 9.*—An officer of the seventh succeeded in lowering the topmast of the flag staff, and rigging the halliards, but found he could not raise it again without great labor and exposure; he therefore lashed it in position and raised the national flag, after having stood a succession of round shot, cannister, and shells, from the enemy's batteries for fifteen or twenty minutes. At 10 o'clock, a sergeant and ten men fired the houses on the road which had been successively occupied by our own and the enemy's pickets. It brought a heavy discharge of shells, cannister and round shot, from the enemy's batteries. Shells, with slight intervals, continued until half-past 2 o'clock, P. M.; the mortar on our west silent, and one firing from a position between us and the fort, at the upper ferry; it was much further off, but fired accurately. Two P. M., Major Brown died, and in a short time we heard the re-engagement between the armies. Quarter to six, quite a number of Mexican cavalry and a few infantry were seen in the retreat. At this time we received a heavy fire of round shot and shells. From the time the battle commenced, and continued to increase, an eighteen pounder and six pounder were fired in the direction of the upper ferry; when, finding it difficult to distinguish between friend and foe, the firing was discontinued, not again to be resumed." The engagement continued for seven days, during most of which time a number of men under the direction of Capt. Mansfield, was engaged night and day in completing the works; the fire of the enemy not for a moment arresting the progress of their operations, and notwithstanding the large number of shot and shells thrown by the enemy, the American loss was but two killed, Major Brown, and Sergeant Weigart, and thirteen wounded.



We must now leave the fort so gallantly defended, and follow Gen. Taylor in his progress to and from Point Isabel.

### *Battle of Palo Alto.*

Gen. Taylor having relieved Point Isabel, the main body of the army of occupation marched out under his immediate orders on the evening of the 7th of May, and bivouacked about seven miles from that place.

Our march, says the General in his official despatch, was resumed the following morning. About noon, when our advance of cavalry had reached the water-hole of "Palo Alto," the Mexican troops were reported in our front, and were soon discovered occupying the road in force. I ordered a halt upon reaching the water, with a view to rest and refresh the men, and to form deliberately our line of battle. The Mexican line was now plainly visible across the prairie, and about three quarters of a mile distant. Their left, which was composed of a heavy force of cavalry, occupied the road, resting upon a thicket of chaparral, while masses of infantry were discovered in succession on the right, greatly outnumbering our own force.

Our line of battle was now formed in the following order, commencing on the extreme right:—5th infantry, commanded by Lieut. Col. McIntosh; Major Ringgold's artillery; 3d infantry, commanded by Capt. L. N. Morris, two 18-pounders, commanded by Lieut. Churchill, 3d artillery; 4th infantry, commanded by Major G. W. Allen; the 3d and 4th regiments composed the third brigade, under command of Lieut. Col. Garland; and all the above corps, together with two squadrons of dragoons under Captains Ker and May, composed the right wing, under the orders of Col. Twiggs. The left was formed by the battalion of artillery commanded by Lieut. Col. Childs, Capt. Duncan's light artillery, and the 8th infantry, under Capt. Montgomery—all forming the first brigade, under command of Lieut. Col. Belknap. The train was packed near the water, under direction of Captains Crossman and Myers, and protected by Capt. Ker's squadron.

At 2 o'clock we took up the march by heads of columns, in the direction of the enemy—the 18-pounder battery following the road. While the columns were advancing, Lieut. Blake, topographical engineers, volunteered a reconnoissance of the enemy's line, which was handsomely performed, and resulted in the discovery of at least two batteries of artillery in the intervals of their cavalry and infantry. These batteries were soon opened upon us, when I ordered the columns halted and deployed into line, and the fire to be returned by all our artillery. The 8th infantry, on our extreme left, was thrown back to secure that flank. The first fires of the enemy did little execution, while our 18-pounders and Major Ringgold's artillery soon dispersed the cavalry which formed his left. Capt. Duncan's battery, thrown forward in advance of the line, was doing good execution at this time. Capt. May's squadron was now detached to support that battery, and the left of our position. The Mexican cavalry, with two pieces of artillery, were now reported to be moving through the chaparral to our right, to threaten that flank, or make a demonstration against the train. The 5th infantry was immediately detached to check this movement, and supported by Lieut. Ridgeley, with a section of Major Ringgold's battery and Capt. Walker's company of volunteers, effectually repulsed the enemy—the 5th infantry repelling a charge of lancers, and the artillery doing great execution in their ranks. The 3d infantry was now detached to the right as a still further security to that flank yet threatened by the enemy. Major Ringgold, with the remaining section, kept up his fire from an advanced position, and was supported by the 4th infantry.

The grass of the prairie had been accidentally fired by our artillery, and the volumes of smoke now partially concealed the armies from each other. As the enemy's left had evidently been driven back and left the road free, as the cannonade had been suspended, I ordered forward the 18 pounders on the road nearly to the position first occupied by the Mexican cavalry, and caused the first brigade to take up a new position still on the left of the 18 pounder battery. The 5th was advanced from its former position and occupied a point on the extreme right of the new line. The enemy made a change of position corresponding to our own, and after a suspension of nearly an hour the action was resumed.

The fire of artillery was now most destructive—openings were constantly made through the enemy's ranks by our fire, and the constancy with which the Mexican infantry sustained this severe cannonade was a theme of universal remark and admiration. Capt. May's squadron was detached to make a demonstration on the left of the enemy's position, and suffered severely from the fire of artillery to which it was for some time exposed. The 4th infantry which had been ordered to support the 18 pounder battery, was exposed to a most galling fire of artillery, by which several men were killed and Capt. Page dangerously wounded. The enemy's fire was directed against our 18 pounder battery, and the guns under Major Ringgold in its vicinity. The Major himself, while coolly directing the fire of his pieces, was struck by a cannon ball and mortally wounded.

In the meantime the battalion of artillery under Lieut. Col. Childs, had been brought up to support the artillery on our right. A strong demonstration of cavalry was now made by the enemy against this part of our line, and the column continued to advance under a severe fire from the 18-pounders. The battalion was instantly formed in square, and held ready to receive the charge of cavalry, but when the advancing squadrons were within close range a deadly fire of cannister from the 18-pounders dispersed them. A brisk fire of small arms was now opened upon the square, by which one officer, Lieut. Luther, 2d artillery, was slightly wounded, but a well directed volley from the front of the square silenced all further firing from the enemy in this quarter. It was now nearly dark, and the action was closed on the right of our line, the enemy having been completely driven back from his position, and foiled in every attempt against our line.

While the above was going forward on our right and under my own eye, the enemy had made a serious attempt against the left of our line. Captain Duncan instantly perceived the movement, and by the bold and brilliant manœuvring of his battery, completely repulsed several successive efforts of the enemy to advance in force upon our left flank. Supported in succession by the 8th infantry and Capt. Ker's squadron of dragoons, he gallantly held the enemy at bay, and finally drove him, with immense loss, from the field. The action here and along the whole line, continued until dark, when the enemy retired into the chaparral in rear of his position. Our army bivouacked on the ground it occupied. During the afternoon the train had been moved forward about half a mile, and was packed in rear of the new position.

The American force engaged in this battle, according to the field report, is shown to have been 2288, of whom 177 were officers. The force of the Mexicans, according to their own officers, taken prisoners on the following day, was at least 6000 regulars, and an unknown number of irregular troops, with 10 pieces of artillery. Their loss was nearly 400 killed and wounded, while only nine Americans were killed, 44 wounded, and two missing. The death of Major Ringgold was a source of great regret throughout the Union, as he was one of our bravest and most valuable officers, and one of the most distinguished light-artillery commanders in the world. The wound received by Captain Page was horrible. His whole lower jaw was shot away, together with part of his tongue and palate, yet, strange to say, he survived until the 12th of July.

It was during this battle that the Mexican artillery, perceiving General Taylor and his staff, poured in upon them a shower of cannister and grape. "Upon my word," says the General, "I do believe the rascals want to hit me." Very soon one of the officers rode up and suggested to the General that it would be better for him to retire to a position less exposed, "Well," said the General, who had been sitting all the time at his ease, with his leg over the saddle, watching the movements of the contending armies, "let us ride up nearer, and their balls will go over us." And he rode to a still more exposed point, but where he could have a better view of the battle.

In his official despatch, dated May 7th, just before he left Point Isabel, he said, "If the enemy oppose my march, in whatever force, I shall fight him." The crisis demanded that he should fight, without regard to disparity of numbers or consequences. His lion-heart met the crisis, and he obtained the victory which the brave army deserved under his gallant lead.

#### *Battle of Resaca de la Palma.*

The American army encamped for the night on their position. On the morning of the 9th of May they stood to their arms again, supposing the enemy to be immediately in front of them, but soon found that he had made a rapid retreat, leaving the ground strewn with his dead and with abandoned ammunition.

The first care of General Taylor was to visit the wounded and see that every comfort was supplied—the constant and well-directed energies of the medical department left but little for him to do; every one, whether officer or soldier, had been attended with unwearying care and watchfulness. The troops having partaken of their meal, the order was given to get the command under arms.



General Taylor here summoned a council of war, composed of the heads of the different commands, in all thirteen, excluding the commander-in-chief. The General, after returning thanks for their support and bravery on the 8th, and wishing to be advised as to what they thought best to be done, called on each to give his opinion. It was then ascertained that but four out of the thirteen were in favor of going ahead, the other officers composing the council voted, some to entrench where they were, and await the assistance of the volunteers, and others to retire at once to Point Isabel; but the General said, "*I will be at Fort Brown before night, if I live!*"

About one, P.M., the army resumed its march. When it first halted, Captain G. A. McCall had been sent ahead with 100 picked men to scour the chaparral and watch the progress of the enemy. Captain Smith, of the Artillery, with his battalion of light companies of the 1st Brigade, followed. The army then proceeded through the chaparral till within about three miles of the Fort, when word was passed to the rear that the enemy were in force in front, and in a selected position. There was no stopping for reflection or plan. The troops filed past the wagons, and deployed skirmishers to the right and left of the road. They had hardly deployed when the heaviest fire commenced. The enemy were posted upon the opposite side of a ravine, their left guarded by a pond, with three batteries, containing in all eight pieces of artillery, established one on the left, one in, and one on the right of the road. Upon the General's arrival, the gallant McCall was ordered to repair to the spot where his advance guard was first fired upon, and "draw the fire of the enemy's batteries, so that the General might know where to place his." That was what might be called a forlorn hope—they went and fearlessly drew and received their fire.

The 5th and 8th Infantry were deployed on the left of the road and the 3d and 4th on the right, with orders to advance as rapidly as possible and fight the enemy wherever he might be. The thicket was almost impenetrable, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they could get through it. The Mexicans discovered or guessed at the General's disposition of his force, and poured into them grape and cannister shot from eight pieces of artillery, which were planted on the two sides of the road and entrenched upon the margin of a pond impassable to men and horses. Their batteries were answered, but could not be silenced behind their entrenchments. Owing to the dense chaparral, the regiments became much mixed, but fought not the less severely. Lieutenant R. Ridgely advanced with his battery and threw shells and schrapnel shot among the enemy. The enemy clung to their batteries with the greatest pertinacity. The gallant Lieutenant, in one of his advances, had not yet unlimbered, when he was charged by a body of lancers, who came dashing down upon him like thunder; fortunately one of his pieces was unlimbered, and Sergeant Keanes put a load of cannister on top of a shell and fired it. This scattered them all but four, who came dashing along. Lieutenant Ridgeley charged them in person, and drove them off; all this time the balls were rattling like hailstones. Captain May rode back to the General and asked if he should charge the enemy's battery in the road with his squadron? "Charge, Captain, *volens volens*," was the reply, and away dashed the gallant fellow and his squadron down the ravine! The enemy poured a volley of grape into them, which killed Lieutenant Inge, and swept away nearly the whole of his first platoon. On they went, and drove the enemy from their pieces, and captured the battery!

In this charge, in the front rank, were Capt. May himself, poor Inge and Lt. Sackett. When May gave the word "*charge!*" Sackett's horse being a little the quickest, got the start. In the midst of a shower of grape, May said to S., "SACKETT, THAT'S NOT FAIR! YOU TOOK THE JUMP ON ME!" Lt. Sackett's horse was almost at that moment shot, and fell with him into a water hole. He fell



upon the Lieutenant who with great difficulty disengaged himself with the loss of his sword. He took another horse and sword from a dragoon, and again joined in the fight.

Gen. Vega was fighting in person at the Mexican batteries, and was just in the act of touching off a cannon when taken prisoner by May.

The 5th and 8th Infantry were then ordered to advance (being the nearest to the enemy's batteries) and bring off the pieces, but the enemy had regained them, and a desperate conflict hand to hand ensued, which lasted half an hour, when the Mexicans began to give back, and left the Americans in possession of their guns. At this time the whole of the Infantry became engaged, and the action continued almost without cessation until sunset, when the enemy were driven across the Rio Grande. There were many feats of personal daring during the action. Lt. Lincoln of the 8th, was ordered to charge into the chaparral where the Mexican infantry were lodged, and were pouring a most destructive fire upon our men as they advanced along the road. Lincoln charged upon the chaparral with the bayonet at the head of his company. In the thickest of the fight he saw Lieut. Jordan of another company, to whom he was much attached, wounded upon the ground, and a Mexican standing over him with his musket raised in the act of stabbing Jordan with his bayonet, Lincoln sprang forward, and the Mexican seeing him, his bayonet was turned aside a little, and passed through Jordan's arm instead of his breast, at which the blow was aimed. At the same instant Lincoln's sword cleft the Mexican's skull. Another Mexican instantly made a pass with his bayonet at Lincoln, but he jumped aside and as the Mexican passed forward, Lincoln's sword was buried in his skull. Other Mexicans rushed in, and Lincoln and his sergeant despatched three more of them on the spot, in a fight hand to hand.

Corporal Farrel, of the 4th Infantry, with ten men, came up to Lt. Hays of the 4th, and exclaimed,—“ *Lieutenant, if we had an officer to lead us, we would take that piece!* ” referring to one which was pouring the “ *leaded messengers of death* ” into his brave comrades. “ *You shall not say you had no officer to lead you, Corporal, follow me!* ” was the reply of the fearless Hays; and away they dashed and stormed the battery, *and took it.*

An officer of infantry, perceiving his men were firing with great rapidity, but not with sufficiently good aim as he thought, called out to them—“ *Be careful and not waste your ammunition. Take good aim and never miss your man. Remember, I have given a receipt for every one of these cartridges!* ” Pretty soon they charged into the chaparral, when they met the enemy face to face. One of the men charged upon a Mexican, and as he ran him through with his bayonet, he roared out—“ *Captain, look here—I have saved one cartridge!* ”

Innumerable instances among the men of desperate courage prove how determined was the army to conquer or die.

The order was now given to pursue the enemy, and on went the brave troops, yelling and firing, with the Mexicans in full run before them, until they reached the river, and found the General officers and cavalry had outrun them, and the remainder of the Mexican army dispersed through the chaparral. As soon as the route of the enemy was reported to Gen. Taylor, he ordered the troops to return and encamp upon the field of battle. Thus ended the day, in the most brilliant victory of the age. Hearing of the action of the 8th, the commanding General in Matamoras had sent over, to reinforce Arista, two veteran regiments numbering upwards of a thousand men, who had been in twenty battles and never lost one—so that in the action of the 9th the American army were opposed by 7000, or nearly that. Col. Child's battalion having been left with the baggage waggons, was not in the action. There was also a detachment sent that morning with the train to Point Isabel—reducing Gen. Taylor's force engaged to something under 1800 men.

The following is Gen. Taylor's despatch, giving a detailed account of this battle :

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,

Camp near Fort Brown, Texas, May 17, 1846.

SIR : In submitting a more minute report of the affair of " Resaca de la Palma," I have the honour to state that early in the morning of the 9th inst., the enemy who had encamped near the field of battle of the day previous, was discovered moving by his left flank, evidently in retreat ; and perhaps at the same time to gain a new position on the road to Matamoros, and there again resist our advance.

I ordered the supply train to be strongly packed at its position, and left with it four pieces of artillery—the two 18 pounders which had done such good service on the previous day—and two 12 pounders which had not been in the action. The wounded officers and men were at the same time sent back to Point Isabel. I then moved forward with the columns to the edge of the chaparral or forest, which extends to the Rio Grande, a distance of seven miles. The light companies of the 1st brigade, under Captain C. F. Smith, 2d artillery, and a select detachment of light troops ; the whole under the command of Captain McCall, 4th infantry, were thrown forward into the chaparral, to feel the enemy and ascertain his position. About three o'clock, I received a report from the advance, that the enemy was in position on the road with at least two pieces of artillery. The command was immediately put in motion, and at about four o'clock I came up with Captain McCall, who reported the enemy in force in our front, occupying a ravine which intersects the road and is skirted by thickets of dense chaparral. Ridgely's battery and the advance under Captain McCall were at once thrown forward on the road, and into the chaparral on either side, while the 5th infantry and one wing of the 4th were thrown into the forest on the left, and the 3d and the other wing of the 4th, on the right of the road. These corps were employed as skirmishers to cover the battery and engage the Mexican infantry. Captain McCall's command became at once engaged with the enemy, while the light artillery, though in a very exposed position, did great execution. The enemy had at least eight pieces of artillery, and maintained an incessant fire upon our advance.

The action now became general, and although the enemy's infantry gave way before the steady fire and resistless progress of our own, yet his artillery was still in position to check our advance—several pieces occupying the pass across the ravine, which he had chosen for his position. Perceiving that no decisive advantage could be gained until this artillery was silenced, I ordered Captain May to charge the batteries with his squadron of dragoons. This was gallantly and effectually executed, the enemy was driven from his guns, and General La Vega, who remained alone at one of the batteries, was taken prisoner. The squadron, which suffered much in this charge, not being immediately supported by infantry, could not retain possession of the artillery taken, but it was completely silenced. In the meantime, the 8th infantry had been ordered up, and had become warmly engaged on the right of the road. This regiment, and a part of the 5th, were now ordered to charge the batteries, which was handsomely done, and the enemy entirely driven from his artillery and his position on the left of the road.

The light companies of the 1st brigade, and the 3d and 4th regiments of infantry, had been deployed on the right of the road, where, at various points, they became briskly engaged with the enemy. A small party under Captain Buchanan and Lieutenants Wood and Hays, 4th infantry, composed chiefly of men of that regiment, drove the enemy from a breastwork which he occupied, and captured a piece of artillery. An attempt to recover this piece was repelled by Captain Barbour, 3d infantry. The enemy was at last completely driven from his position on the right of the road, and retreated precipitately, leaving baggage of every description. The 4th infantry took possession of a camp where the head-quarters of the Mexican general-in-chief were established. All his official correspondence was captured at this place.

The artillery battalion (excepting the flank companies) had been ordered to guard the baggage train, which was packed some distance in rear. That battalion was now ordered up to pursue the enemy, and with the 3d infantry, Captain Ker's dragoons, and Captain Duncan's battery, followed him rapidly to the river, making a number of prisoners. Great numbers of the enemy were drowned in attempting to cross the river near the town. The corps last mentioned, encamped near the river, the remainder of the army on the field of battle.

The strength of our marching force on this day, as exhibited in the annexed field report, was 173 officers, and 2049 men—aggregate, 2222. The actual number engaged with the enemy did not exceed 1700. Our loss was three officers killed and twelve wounded ; thirty-six men killed and seventy-one wounded. Among the officers killed, I have to regret the loss of Lieutenant Inge, 2d dragoons, who fell at the head of his platoon, while gallantly charging the enemy's battery ; of Lieutenant Cochrane, of the 5th, and Lieutenant Chadbourne, of the 8th infantry, who likewise met their death in the thickest of the fight. The officers wounded were Lieutenant-Colonel Payne, Inspector General ; Lieutenant Dobbins,



3d infantry, serving with the light infantry advance, slightly; Lieutenant-Colonel McIntosh, 5th infantry, severely (twice); Captain Hooe, 5th infantry, severely (right arm since amputated); Lieutenant Fowler 5th infantry, slightly; Captain Montgomery, 8th infantry, slightly; Lieutenants Gates and Jordan, 8th infantry, severely (each twice); Lieutenants Selden, Maclay, Burbank, and Morris, 8th infantry, slightly. A statement of the killed and wounded is annexed herewith.

I have no accurate data from which to estimate the enemy's force on this day. He is known to have been reinforced after the action of the 8th, both by cavalry and infantry, and no doubt to an extent at least equal to his loss on that day. It is probable that 6000 men were opposed to us, and in a position chosen by themselves, and strongly defended with artillery. The enemy's loss was very great. Nearly 200 of his dead were buried by us on the day succeeding the battle. His loss in killed, wounded, and missing, in the two affairs of the 8th and 9th, is, I think, moderately estimated at 1000 men.

Our victory has been decisive. A small force has overcome immense odds of the best troops that Mexico can furnish—veteran regiments perfectly equipped and appointed. Eight pieces of artillery, several colors and standards, a great number of prisoners, including fourteen officers, and a large amount of baggage and public property have fallen into our hands.

The causes of victory are doubtless to be found in the superior quality of our officers and men. I have already, in former reports, paid a general tribute to the admirable conduct of the troops on both days. It now becomes my duty—and I feel it to be one of great delicacy—to notice individuals. In so extensive a field as that of the 8th, and in the dense cover where most of the action of the 9th was fought, I could not possibly be witness to more than a small portion of the operations of the various corps; and I must, therefore, depend upon the reports of subordinate commanders, which I respectfully enclose herewith.

Colonel Twigg, the second in command, was particularly active on both days in executing my orders, and directing the operations of the right wing. Lieut.-Colonel McIntosh, commanding the 5th infantry, Lieut.-Colonel Garland, commanding the 3d brigade, Lieut. Colonel Belknap, commanding the 1st brigade, Lieut. Colonel-Childs, commanding the artillery battalion, Major Allen, Captains L. N. Morris and Montgomery, commanding respectively the 4th, 3d, and 8th regiments of infantry, were zealous in the performance of their duties and gave examples to their commands of cool and fearless conduct. Lieut. Colonel McIntosh repulsed with his regiment a charge of lancers in the action of Palo Alto, and shared with it in the honors and dangers of the following day, being twice severely wounded. Lieut.-Colonel Belknap headed a charge of the 8th infantry, which resulted in driving the enemy from his guns, and leaving us in possession of that part of the field.

Captain Duncan and Lieutenant Ridgely deserve especial notice for the gallant and efficient manner in which they manœuvred and served their batteries. The impression made by Captain Duncan's battery upon the extreme right of the enemy's line, at the affair of Palo Alto, contributed largely to the result of the day; while the terrible fire kept up by Lieut. Ridgely, in the affair of the 9th, inflicted heavy losses upon the enemy. The 18-pounder battery, which played a conspicuous part in the action of the 8th, was admirably served by Lieutenant Churchill, 3d artillery, assisted by Lieutenant Wood, topographical engineers. The charge of cavalry on the enemy's batteries on the 9th, was gallantly led by Capt. May, and had complete success.

Captain McCall, 4th infantry, rendered distinguished service with the advanced corps under his orders. Its loss, in killed and wounded, will show how closely it was engaged. I may take this occasion to say that, in two former instances, Captain McCall has rendered valuable service as a partisan officer. In this connection, I would mention the services of Captain Walker, of the Texas rangers, who was in both affairs with his company, and who has performed very meritorious service as a spy and partisan.

I must beg leave to refer to the reports of subordinate commanders for the names of many officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, who were distinguished by good conduct on both days. Instances of individual gallantry and personal conflict with the enemy were not wanting in the affair of the 9th, but cannot find place in a general report. The officers serving on the staffs of the different commanders, are particularly mentioned by them.

I derived efficient aid on both days from all the officers of my staff. Captain Bliss, assistant adjutant general, Lieut. Col. Payne, inspector general, Lieut. Eaton, A. D. C., Captain Waggaman, commissary of subsistence, Lieut. Scarret, engineer, and Lieutenants Blake and Meade, topographical engineers, promptly conveyed my orders to every part of the field. Lieut. Colonel Payne was wounded in the affair of the 9th, and I have already had occasion to report the melancholy death of Lieut. Blake, by accident, in the interval between the two engagements. Major Craig and Lieutenant Brereton, of the ordnance department, were actively engaged in their appropriate duties, and Surgeon Craig, medical director, superintended in person the arduous service of the field hospitals. I take this occasion to mention generally the devotion to duty of the medical staff of the army, who have been untiring in their exertions both in the field and in the hospitals, to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded of both armies. Captains Crossman and Myers of the quartermaster's department,

who had charge of the heavy supply train at both engagements, conducted it in a most satisfactory manner, and finally brought it up without the smallest loss, to its destination.

I enclose an inventory of the Mexican property captured on the field, and also a sketch of the field of "Resaca de la Palma," and of the route from Point Isabel, made by my aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Eaton. One regimental color, (battalion of Tampico,) and many standards and guidons of cavalry were taken at the affair of the 9th. I would be pleased to receive your instructions as to the disposition to be made of these trophies—whether they shall be sent to Washington, &c.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A. Commanding.

The ADJUTANT GENERAL of the Army, Washington, D. C.

## REPORT OF COLONEL TWIGGS TO GENERAL TAYLOR.

HEAD QUARTERS RIGHT WING, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,  
Camp near Matamoras, May 15, 1846. }

SIR—I have the honor to make the following report of the transactions of the different corps of the right wing of the army under my command during the actions with the enemy on the 8th and 9th inst. About half-past 2 P. M. on the 8th, we found ourselves at the Palo Alto, within one mile of the chaparral which borders the Rio Grande, and nine miles from the river, my command being composed of Major Ringgold's company of light artillery, two squadrons of dragoons, the 5th infantry, and the 3d and 4th infantry, composing the 3d brigade.

The enemy, at the distance of about half a mile, opened their batteries on their right, which being immediately responded to by our two 18-pounders in charge of Lieut Churchill, brought on the action of the 8th inst. Major Ringgold's battery was ordered to the right and front of the 18-pounders, at a distance of about seven hundred yards from the enemy, when the battery was opened with great effect, as was shown the next day by the number of the enemy's dead found along his line. The infantry, in the mean time, was formed in the rear of the artillery, receiving with the greatest possible coolness the enemy's fire, and only anxious for the order to rush in and participate actively in the affair.

A regiment of the enemy's lancers was observed to move to our right, apparently to gain possession of our wagon train, a few hundred yards in rear. The 5th infantry and two pieces of Major Ringgold's artillery, under the command of Lieut. R. Ridgely, were ordered to check this movement. Having gained ground to the right some four or five hundred yards, the 5th was formed in square to receive a charge from the lancers, who advanced to within fifty yards, when the opposing side of the square fired into and repulsed them, having received in the meantime several irregular discharges from the enemy. The lancers re-formed, and continued their movement to get in rear of our right flank, when I ordered the third to move to the right and rear around a pond of water, and prevent their progress in that direction. Seeing their movement frustrated in this point, the lancers commenced a retreat in good order, marching apparently by squadrons, when First Lieut. R. Ridgely, of Major Ringgold's battery, assisted by Brevet 2d Lieut. French, opened a fire on them, and scattered them in all directions. In this affair the enemy lost some twenty-eight or thirty.

This portion of the right wing served in about this position until the close of the action. In the meantime Major Ringgold, with the remaining two pieces of his battery, continued to play on the enemy with great success. The gallant Major was mortally wounded by a cannon ball towards the close of the action, and his horse shot under him at the same time. The army and the country will long deplore the loss of so brave and accomplished an officer.

The 2d squadron of dragoons, commanded by Captain May, who during the day was under the immediate orders of the general commanding, being ordered to turn, if possible, the left flank of the enemy, the 4th infantry was ordered to support him. Having advanced in our right and front some four hundred yards under a very severe fire from two of the enemy's batteries, it was found that the force he had to oppose was eight or nine hundred cavalry; he retired agreeably to his orders, and the 4th infantry was accordingly withdrawn. In this operation Capt. May's squadron had five men wounded and six horses killed, and the 4th infantry one man killed, one officer, (Capt. Page) mortally, and one man severely wounded. Night coming on, the right wing took position in front of the wagon train, and slept on their arms on the ground first occupied by the enemy. The perfect coolness of Lieut. Ridgely, and the great precision with which he fired his pieces whilst acting in concert with the 5th, deserves notice, the last and most effective shot he having aimed himself.

On the morning of the 9th, some of the enemy being discovered in the edge of the chaparral, we advanced the 5th infantry on the right, with the 2d squadron of dragoons in front, Major Ringgold's battery, commanded by Lieut. Ridgely, on the left of the 5th, and the 3rd brigade on its left. On advancing, the enemy having retired, we entered the chaparral, and



approached to within eight hundred yards of Resaca de la Palma, where the enemy had taken position for fight. The advance guard having kept up a fire till our arrival, Lieut. Ridgely was ordered in front of the 5th with his battery, and having advanced cautiously to within about four hundred yards of their battery in the road, the enemy opened on him with grape. Lieut. Ridgely pushed forward rapidly about one hundred yards further, and returned their fire with great spirit and success, advancing on them whenever their fire slackened. At times the two batteries were firing cannister at each other when not more than one hundred yards apart. Having advanced in this manner about five hundred yards, Captain May's squadron was ordered to charge the enemy's guns. Dashing forward in column of fours, (the main road admitting of no other formation,) the squadron charged across the ravine through seven of the enemy's pieces, driving the gunners from them—Capt. May, with Lieuts. Inge, Stevens and Sackett, and the 1st and 2d platoons of the squadrons, charging the guns in the road and on the right of it. Captain Graham, accompanied by Lieut. Winship and Pleasonton, with the 3d and 4th platoons, leading the charge against the pieces on the left of the road in the ravine. Capt. May, having charged through the pieces in the road, rallied some six men and charged again at some of the gunners, who had regained their pieces, drove them off, and took Gen. Vega prisoner. In the charge, Lieut. Inge fell at the head of his platoon whilst leading it on gallantly, having passed through their batteries. Corporal McCauley was taken prisoner; nine privates and eighteen horses were killed. Sergeant McMuly, nine privates, and ten horses wounded. The 4th infantry, under the command of Brevet Major Allen; the 5th, commanded by Lieut. Colonel McIntosh; and the 3d, commanded by Capt. S. N. Morris, retained possession of the enemy's artillery, repulsing at different times largely superior parties brought to bear against them, and finally brought off the pieces, making several prisoners of war. After the unsurpassed, if not unequalled, charge of Capt. May's squadron, the enemy was unable to fire a piece. In this affair, in which Lieut. Inge, 2d dragoons, and Lieut. Cochrane, 4th infantry, were killed, Lieut.-Col. McIntosh, Capt. Hoe, and Lieut. Dobbins were wounded, I would respectfully call the attention of the commanding-general to the gallant conduct of Col. McIntosh, 5th, and Col. Garland, 4th infantry, (commanding the 3d brigade,) Lieuts. Ridgely, Shover and French, 3d artillery; Captains May and Graham, Lieuts. Winship, Stevens, Pleasonton and Sackett, 2d dragoons; and Capt. Buchanan, Lieuts. Hays and Woods, 4th infantry, &c.—the latter two having captured a piece of artillery, defended by one hundred and fifty or two hundred, with but a few men.

The enemy having been routed with great loss, this day's action closed with much honor to the American army, spreading terror among the Mexican people. In this action every officer and man performed his duty most gallantly.

Captain Arnold and Lieutenant McDonald, 2d dragoons, my aids on the 8th and 9th inst. performed the several duties assigned them with promptness, coolness and courage. They accompanied me during the whole of the affair, except when detached carrying orders. The detailed account of the commander of each regiment and corps is herewith transmitted.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS, Col. 2d Dragoons, commanding right wing, A. D.

Capt. W. W. S. BLISS, Assistant Adjutant General,

Army of Occupation, camp near Matamoras.

Camp near Matamoras, May 10, 1846.

SIR: In compliance with your directions, I have the honor to report that the company which I now have the honor to command, took up its position in line of battle about three o'clock, P.M., on the afternoon of the 5th, at a distance of about 800 yards from the enemy's line. After receiving a few rounds of artillery, we advanced about 100 yards, where we opened our battery with considerable execution, as proven the next day; but in consequence of their making a flank movement to our right, I was detached, with two pieces, to operate with the 5th infantry, who had been sent forward to oppose the movement. My section had already lost one man, and two horses badly wounded. As I was taking position on the right of the 5th, who were in square, they fired a volley from one of its faces on the enemy, whose cavalry had charged. I at once unlimbered and commenced firing. Very shortly I saw their artillery and cavalry, which latter was in large force, retiring. I am happy to state our fire proved effective, and the movement was frustrated. Brevet Second Lieutenant French had the immediate charge of one of the pieces. We continued changing position from point to point until dark, when we encamped. I then learned that Brevet Major Ringgold, who had been with the other section, had been badly wounded. The section was brought up by Lieutenant Shover, who had kept it actively employed the entire afternoon.

The following morning, about noon, I took my position in rear of the 5th infantry, on our way to Matamoras, marching in columns of sections wherever practicable. After having advanced about five miles, I was ordered to the front with my battery, and was then inform-

ed the enemy were immediately in our front, occupying the road with their artillery. Captain Walker, of the Texas Rangers, was sent to point out to me their exact position. After moving very cautiously for a short distance, I discovered them about 400 yards in advance in the road, and almost instantly their artillery opened. I moved rapidly to the front for about 100 yards, and returned their fire, which was kept up very spiritedly on both sides for some time, their grape shot passing through our battery in every direction. So soon as it slackened, I limbered up and moved rapidly forward, never unlimbering, unless seeing them in front, or perceiving, from the fire of their infantry, they were on my flanks. Frequently the several pieces fired canister on them, when not over 100 or 150 yards. After having advanced in this manner for about 500 yards, Captain May, 2d dragoons, rode up and said, "Where are they? I am going to charge." I gave them a volley, and he most gallantly dashed forward in "columns of fours" at the head of his squadron. I followed as quietly as possible at a gallop, only halting when I came upon the edge of the ravine, where I found three pieces of artillery, but no cannoniers; however, their infantry poured into me a most galling fire at from 25 to 50 paces; and here ensued a most desperate struggle, but our infantry coming up, they were completely routed. Their cavalry came so near that I once cut at them with my sabre. I did not advance as rapidly as I desired, as I perceived it was not at times supported by the infantry, it being impossible for them to get through the chaparral.

I cannot, sir, speak in too high terms of the gallantry and coolness of my officers, and the behaviour of my non-commissioned officers and men generally; and respectfully beg leave to call the attention of higher authorities to the fact that the officers, during the greater portion of the engagement, and always when closely pressed, had to perform the duties of not only one, but two cannoniers, handling their own shot, and firing their own pieces in consequence of the very limited number of men.

In conclusion, sir, I am proud to state, that until the enemy's artillery was taken, and they completely routed, no other artillery was required, or at least used, but the battery I have the honor to command.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

RANDOLPH RIDGELEY,

1st Lieutenant, 3d Artillery, commanding Light Company C.

#### CASUALTIES.

*Killed*—One private on the 8th.

*Wounded*—One brevet major, on the 8th, one sergeant, three privates.

*Horses*—Two horses wounded on the 8th, since dead; one horse, on the 8th, abandoned. five horses very severely, unserviceable, on the 9th; six horses, not very severely, on the 9th.

Dragoon Camp, Resaca de la Palma, on the Battle Ground, May 10, 1846. ]

SIR: Having been detached from the head quarters of my regiment, with my squadron, and acting under the immediate orders of the commanding general during the actions of the 8th and 9th instant, it became my duty to report the services which the squadron I had the honor to command rendered during these actions.

You are aware that my first orders, on the 8th, were to strengthen the left flank of the army, and sustain Lieutenant Duncan's battery; in this position I lost four horses killed and two wounded.

About half an hour before sunset, I received orders to proceed to the enemy's left flank, and drive in his cavalry; in execution of these orders, and while passing the general and his staff, the enemy concentrated the fire from their batteries upon us, killing six of my horses, and wounding five men. I succeeded in gaining a position on the enemy's left, with a view of charging his cavalry, but found him in such force as to render ineffectual a charge from my small command, and therefore returned, in obedience to my instructions, to my first position, where I remained until the close of the action, which terminated very shortly afterwards. Thus ended the service of my squadron on the 8th instant.

On the morning of the 9th, my squadron was actively employed in reconnoitering the chaparral in advance of the field of the 8th; and on the advance of the army, I took my position as the advance guard. When about half a mile from the position which the enemy were reported to have taken, I was ordered to halt, and allow the artillery and infantry to pass, and await farther orders. I remained in this position about three quarters of an hour, when I was ordered to report with my squadron to the general. I did so; and was ordered by the general to charge the enemy's batteries, and drive them from their pieces; which was rapidly executed, with the loss of Lieutenant Inge, seven privates, and eighteen horses killed; and Sergeant Muley, nine privates and ten horses wounded. Lieutenant Sackett,



and Sergeant Story, in the front, by my side, had their horses killed under them; and Lieutenant Inge was gallantly leading his platoon when he fell. We charged entirely through the enemy's batteries of seven pieces—Captain Graham, accompanied by Lieutenants Winship and Pleasanton, leading the charge against the pieces on the left of the road, and myself, accompanied by Lieutenants Inge, Stevens, and Sackett, those on the direct road—and gained the rising ground on the opposite side of the ravine. The charge was made under a heavy fire of the enemy's batteries, which accounts for my great loss. After gaining the rising ground in the rear, I could rally but six men; with these I charged their gunners, who had regained their pieces, drove them off, and took prisoner General Vega, whom I found gallantly fighting in person at his battery. I ordered them to surrender, and on recognizing me as an officer, he handed me his sword. I brought him, under a heavy fire of their infantry, to our lines, accompanied by Lieutenant Stevens and a sergeant of my squadron. I then directed Lieutenant Stevens to conduct him in safety to our rear, and presented his sword to the commanding general.

From this time until the enemy were routed, I was engaged in collecting my men, who had become scattered in our lines, and succeeded in assembling half of my squadron, joined the army in pursuit of the enemy, until he crossed the Rio Grande, from which I returned to camp.

I cannot speak in terms of sufficient praise of the steadiness and gallantry of the officers and men of my command. They all behaved with that spirit of courage and noble daring which distinguished the whole army in this memorable action, and achieved the most brilliant victory of the age.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. MAY, Captain, 2d Dragoons, commanding 2d Squadron

Lieutenant McDonald, Adjutant, 2d Dragoons.

#### REPORT OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BELKNAP TO GENERAL TAYLOR.

Head Quarters, First Brigade, Camp near Matamoros, May 15, 1846.

SIR: In submitting an official report of the operations of the 1st brigade, in the actions of the 8th and 9th of May, at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, I feel a degree of delicacy in the task, from my humble rank, in comparison with the importance and magnitude of my command, and lest I shall be unable to do full justice to the admirable conduct of the officers and men who served under my orders.

On my first meeting the enemy, I received your order to form on the left, with instructions to move into the chaparral, and allow the men to refresh themselves by getting water. Perceiving in a few moments that the enemy were advancing, and not knowing precisely—being on the left of the line—where water was to be obtained, I directed the men to remain in the ranks. The enemy shortly after having halted, and your instructions for the refreshment of the men having been repeated, they proceeded to get water, and immediately fell in, prepared and eager for action. The brigade was then ordered to advance in column on the left of the army—the battalion of artillery, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Childs, on the right, the 8th regiment of infantry, commanded by Captain Montgomery, on the left, and Captain Duncan's battery in the centre. The army having then been ordered to advance, the brigade moved in this order until the enemy opened his batteries; when the brigade was halted, Captain Duncan's battery advanced about two hundred yards and commenced a most destructive fire upon the enemy. This disposition was maintained for about two hours, when the enemy's fire slackened, and finally ceased. Nothing could surpass the coolness and steadiness of the command while thus exposed to a galling fire, receiving, as they did, the heavy discharges of the enemy's well-aimed artillery, without the power of defending themselves.

In a short time after the firing ceased, the army was ordered to advance and take position somewhat nearer to the enemy; the battalion of artillery taking post in rear and to the right of the two 18 pounders, Captain Duncan's artillery on their left, and the 8th infantry on the left and to the rear of this battery. At this moment, Captain Duncan, with his usual quickness of perception, discovered and communicated to me the fact, that the enemy was moving the entire cavalry and infantry force of his right wing upon our train, in rear of the left of our line of battle, and that his battery could produce a more destructive effect upon the enemy by taking a position farther to the left. I ordered him to proceed to the threatened point with all possible dispatch, and hold the enemy in check till the 8th infantry could come up to his support. The battery dashed back to the left flank, in full view of the enemy, and engaged him within point blank range of his small guns. So sudden and unexpected was this movement to the enemy, who, a moment before, saw his battery disappear in an opposite direction, behind the smoke of the burning prairie, that his whole column of cavalry pulled up to a halt before a shot had been fired, or even the guns unlimbered. A strong body of the enemy's infantry, supported by two squadrons of cavalry, debouched from

the extreme right of the chaparral, and moved steadily forward to the attack; one section of the battery opened upon them with round shot, shells, and spherical case, so well directed, that the whole advance, horse and foot, fell back in disorder to the bushes; the other section played, in the meantime, upon the masses of cavalry that had halted at the sight of the guns, as before mentioned. Although these shots were well directed, and each made an opening through an entire squadron, this part of the enemy's line stood unshaken.

The column of cavalry and infantry, driven back in the chaparral by the other section, re-formed there, and moved forward a second time to the attack with great regularity. After they advanced about 100 yards from the chaparral, the section before ordered to drive them back, again opened, and drove them with even greater success than before. They fell back pell mell to the bushes and commenced their retreat; their supporting cavalry abandoned them, rushed back upon the head of the columns that had before withstood our shot, and a flight commenced. Squadron after squadron took it up, and the entire right wing of the army was in full retreat. Both sections were now brought to bear upon the enemy's broken and flying columns, and a brisk and destructive fire was kept up till they disappeared in the chaparral, or darkness put an end to the battle.

When this battery first reached its position on the left, and before the infantry could arrive for its support, Captain Ker, of the 2d dragoons, who had been directed with his squadron to guard the baggage train, with a promptness and eagerness worthy of all praise, offered to repel any attempt of the enemy to assail the battery on its left.

During the absence of the 8th infantry on the left, the commander of the artillery battalion, vigorously and successfully repelled a desperate effort of the enemy to carry the 18 pounders, by promptly forming square and arresting the charge of cavalry. While in this position, he received a fire from a line of the enemy's infantry, which was quickly returned. He then encamped on his own ground; at this time the brigade was reunited near the 18-pounder battery, and bivouacked in front of the army.

On the morning of the 9th we were instructed to assume the same order and advance upon the enemy, he having in the night and early in the morning, retired. The brigade advanced across the plain and took position in the chaparral, where we halted for several hours, waiting instructions, and burying in the mean time eleven of the enemy's dead, that were there found terribly mangled. The army having been put in march in the afternoon, the brigade was ordered to halt as a reserve, when within about a mile of the enemy's position. In a few minutes, the firing having commenced in front, I received orders to move up Duncan's battery and one battalion of infantry. The battery and the 8th regiment were immediately put in motion, the latter in double quick time.

On arriving at the scene of action, the 8th regiment charged the enemy on the right of the road, and drove him from his position. At this moment Captain May, of the 2d dragoons, informed me that he had charged and carried one of the enemy's batteries, but being unsupported, was unable to maintain it. I immediately ordered the 8th infantry to form in the road, when it was led to a charge upon the battery, a part of which had, as reported, been re-taken by the enemy. This movement was executed with the greatest celerity, and the battery secured. The regiment then charged upon the ravine and across the small prairie, amidst a sheet of fire from the front and right, drove the supporting column before it, destroying the enemy in vast numbers—they having maintained a most determined and obstinate resistance, until finally repulsed and driven from the field. Captain Montgomery, with his regiment, pursued vigorously into the chaparral on the opposite side of the ravine, until from the rapid flight of the enemy, farther pursuit was useless.

The conflict was short. The result shows the severity.

At the head of the ravine I met with Captain McCall, 4th infantry, who in command of the advance, had gallantly brought on the action, and poured a most destructive, and kept up an incessant fire upon the enemy.

After the commencement of the action, on advancing with the 8th infantry and the battery of the artillery, I ordered Lieut.-Col. Childs to remain with his battalion as a reserve. It is due to Col. C. to state, that he was desirous that his battalion should be selected to advance into the action instead of the 8th regiment. He soon after received orders from the commanding-general to advance. He obeyed and rapidly pursued the enemy to the Rio Grande, where having thrown our pickets, he captured one captain, and about twelve privates during the enemy's flight.

As soon as the enemy's batteries were carried, and his infantry began to give ground, Capt. Duncan was ordered to cross the ravine and take up a new position, that previously occupied, rendering it impossible for him to assail the enemy, without galling our own troops. This was done, and the enemy vigorously pursued, a few well directed shots from our batteries driving him from position to position till he reached the river.

Where all have acted nobly, it may seem improper to speak of individuals, but I feel compelled to name the commanders of corps in the brigade. The commander of the battalion of artillery, Lieut.-Col. Childs, needs no praise from me. His well-earned fame, won on many a field, is known to all; but his coolness and intrepidity in the battle of the 8th, during the heavy cannonade of the enemy, the prompt manner in which he repulsed



the charge upon the 18-pounder battery, and his hot pursuit of the enemy to the banks of the Rio Grande on the evening of the 9th, are new evidences of his zeal and soldiership, which it gives me pleasure to record.

Capt. Montgomery, in command of the 8th infantry at Palo Alto, manifested the utmost coolness during the connoade of that day, when his horse was shot under him. The celebrity with which he moved to the support of the battery of Artillery, when threatened by the enemy's cavalry, as well as his eagerness in getting into action on the 9th, in which he was wounded, and his vigor in pursuing the enemy, merits high commendation.

I cannot too much commend the skill and judgment of Captain Duncan on both fields. His quick eye detected at Palo Alto the threatening movement of the enemy on the left, whose advancing columns were arrested by his prompt action, and finally turned back by the rapid and skilful discharges from his fine battery.

In the battle of the 9th, the 8th regiment lost Lieutenant Chadbourne, a promising young officer, who fell in the discharge of his duty. Lieutenants Gates and Jordan were badly, but not mortally wounded. The latter, when personally charging the enemy, being overpowered by numbers, was relieved by Lieutenant Lincoln, who slew with his own hand two of the fiercest assailants. Lieutenants Selden, Burbank, Maclay, and Morris, were wounded. Lieutenant Luther, of the artillery battalion, was wounded by a musket ball in the action of the 8th. On this day, Lieutenant Daniels, acting aid-de-camp, had his horse shot under him by a cannon ball. Captain McKavett, of the 8th infantry, and acting field officer of his regiment, had his horse shot under him by a musket ball on the 9th.

I cannot close this report without bearing testimony to the zeal and efficiency of the brigade staff. The highest praise belongs to Lieut. Chase, 2d artillery, acting assistant adjutant general, and Lieut. Daniels, 2d artillery, brigade commissary and acting aid-de-camp, for the rapidity with which they communicated my orders from point to point, and the coolness and courage they displayed under the hottest fire in both these battles.

My thanks are also due to Mr. John B. Cozzens, of New York city, who rendered valuable assistance, by transmitting, with intelligence, such information as I had occasion, from time to time, to communicate.

It is impossible to enumerate all the instances of personal bravery conspicuous on these days. It may be confidently asserted that in their passive exposure to the deadly fire of the enemy's batteries on the plain of Palo Alto, the fortitude, high moral courage, hardy valor and perfect discipline, displayed by the troops, have few parallels in the history of war; while the battle of Resaca de la Palma will long be associated with deeds of heroism and intrepid daring which can never be surpassed.

In the action of the 8th the artillery battalion lost in killed, one sergeant, one corporal, one private, wounded, one lieutenant, two artificers, one musician, and five privates—aggregate, 12.

The 8th infantry lost, killed, 4 privates, 16 privates wounded—total 80, including missing, 2 privates. The artillery company had wounded, 1 non-commissioned officer, 1 artificer, and 2 privates—total, 4.

On the 9th the companies in Captain McCall's command belonging to the artillery battalion, lost in killed, 1 corporal, 2 privates; wounded, 1 sergeant and 4 privates—total 10.

The 8th regiment of infantry, on the 9th, lost in killed, 1 subaltern, 4 non-commissioned officers, and 3 privates—total 8; wounded, 7 officers, 8 non-commissioned officers, 17 privates—aggregate, 32.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. G. BELKNAP, Lieut. Col. Comm'g. 1st Brigade.

Capt. W. W. S. BLISS, Ass't. Adj't. Gen., Army of Occupation.

BATTLE-FIELD NEAR MATAMORAS,  
Headquarters 5th brigade, May 11, 1846. }

COLONEL: I have the honor to enclose herewith, for the information of the commanding general, the reports of Capt. Lewis Morris, of the 3d, and brevet Major Allen, of the 4th infantry, giving a detailed account of the services performed by the regiments under their respective commands in the actions which took place on the 8th and 9th instant.

I have only this moment received these reports, and as I am under orders to march immediately with my brigade, have not a moment to add any thing to them, if I were disposed to do so. Both of these regimental commanders used every effort to meet the enemy and to overcome him. It was pleasing to me to witness the gallant rivalry between these two corps. They shared liberally in the dangers and exertions which brought about our signal success. I witnessed with great satisfaction, in a dense chaparral, Captain Morrison, of the 4th, overcoming obstacles which I believed insurmountable, in order to reach the enemy.

Of Captain McCall, 4th infantry, whose merits are fully appreciated by the commanding general, I can make no remark, as he was detached with a separate command, under the special instructions of the general himself.

It gives me great pleasure to speak in terms of high approbation of the efficient services of my principal staff officers, Lieutenant Beaman, of the 4th infantry, brigade major; Lieutenant G. O. Haller, A. C. S., also rendered me valuable service during the two actions.

Most respectfully, I am, colonel, your obedient servant,  
JNO. GARLAND,  
Lieut. Col. 4th infantry, commanding 3d brigade.  
Col. D. E. TWIGGS, 2d dragoons, commanding right wing, Army of Occupation.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 4TH INFANTRY,  
Camp on the Battle Field, May 10, 1846. }

SIR: I have the honor to report for the information of the colonel commanding the 3d brigade, that in obedience to orders received yesterday, when the firing commenced, the 4th infantry deployed as skirmishing on the right and left of the road, and advanced towards the point where the firing seemed most lively. After rushing on for some short distance, it was discovered that the enemy were pouring in a heavy fire of grape and musketry, from a small breastwork just in front, defended by one piece of artillery, and about 150 or 200 men. Captain Buchanan being nearest this point, and finding himself the senior officer, collected some 25 or 30 men of the regiment; portions of his own company, and companies D, H, and K, and it together with Lieuts. Hays and Woods, charged the work, completely routed the enemy, and captured the field. The regiment still continued to move forward until it emerged from the thicket into the main camp of the enemy, containing the head quarters of the commanding general of the Mexican army, their ammunition, some 300 or 400 mules, saddles, and every variety of camp equipage. I regret extremely to announce the death of First Lieutenant R. E. Cochrane of my regiment, who fell at the very edge of the camp, whilst gallantly leading his men into it. The nature of the chaparral was such, that in going through it, it very frequently became unavoidably necessary to divide the regiment into detachments, each of which met the enemy at different points, and always put him to flight. I cannot pass over in silence the brave and distinguished behaviour of Lieutenants Hays and Woods, as well as that of Sergeant Major Maloney, and Corporals Farrel and Mc Tarlin, who, whilst their gallant commander, Captain Buchanan, was busily engaged in driving back the infantry, rushed forward with six men to the cannon, and whilst Lieutenant Hays was endeavoring to despatch one of the mules attached to it, Lieutenant Woods sprung to the handspikes, turned the piece in such a direction as to lock one of the wheels against a tree, and thereby prevented its being moved, and succeeded in defending and securing it. The conduct of the officers and men on this day, as well as on the 8th, reflects the highest credit on the American soldier. On the 8th, Captain Page was severely, if not mortally wounded; one man killed and one wounded. On the 9th, 1st Lieut. R. E. Cochrane, and three men were killed, Lieutenants Wallen and Hays, and six men wounded; Lieutenants Wallen and Hays very slightly.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. ALLEN,  
Brevet Major, Comm'g 4th Infantry.

To Lieut. Col. J. GARLAND, Commanding 3d Brigade.

P. S. For further particulars, you are referred to the accompanying report of Captain Buchanan. G. W. A.

I have the greatest pleasure in expressing my warmest thanks to the adjutant of the 4th infantry, Lieutenant Haskins for his coolness, gallantry, and efficient assistance throughout the whole of both affairs.

GEO. W. ALLEN,  
Brevet Major, Comm'g 4th Infantry.

Camp on the Battle Field, May 10, 1846.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to report that, in the deployment of the 4th infantry, I found myself in command of companies B, D, and K, on the left of the road as we entered; and having been ordered to cross to the right and advance, did so. After crossing the pond, I had with Lieutenants Hays and Woods, and about thirty men of different regiments, mostly, however, of the 4th. Upon deploying my men on the crest of the hill, I discovered one of the enemy's pieces about fifty yards in my front, which was defended by about 150 infantry. I charged, and took the piece, and attempted to spike it, but not being able to do so, took it back to a place of safety. The enemy had a breastwork in my rear, and opened a heavy fire on me, when, with about ten men, I dislodged him, and drove him across the road. Too much credit cannot be given to Lieuts. Hays and Woods, of the 4th. They were among the very first to reach the piece, and to them belong the credit of its capture. While I was engaged in driving the enemy from his breastwork, these officers, with the men, repulsed a party that charged them in order to recapture their piece.



I cannot refrain from calling your attention to Sergeant Major Maloney and Corporal Farrell, who behaved with remarkable coolness and gallantry. Every body did his duty nobly, as becomes American soldiers.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

ROBERT C. BUCHANAN, Captain 4th Infantry.

To Major G. W. ALLEN, Commanding 4th Infantry.

Head Quarters, Third Infantry, Camp on Battle Field, near Matamoras, May 10, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your order, immediately before the battle of the 9th instant, at this place, I deployed the 3d infantry as skirmishers on the right of the road—the left resting on the road—the regiment advanced rapidly to the front, and soon after the firing commenced, I found my command so far advanced as to be exposed to a cross-fire from our own and the enemy's batteries, and in consequence of the very dense chaparral the regiment became very much scattered. I passed an order down the line for the officers to collect all the men they could, and bring them into the engagement, which was altogether on the left of the road. I returned myself with all the men I could collect, turned Duncan's batteries, and joined in the action on the left flank, with Lieuts. Johns, Bee, Williamson, and Hatch, 3d infantry. Lieutenant and Adjutant Irons passed into the right with a few men, and joined a party under Captain McCall. The officers near me on this occasion did all that could be desired of gallant soldiers. They directed the men with coolness, judgment, and activity; the soldiers, too, about thirty in the detachment, did themselves great credit. I regret that I cannot give a more full account of what the regiment accomplished. As stated before, it became scattered, and each officer was compelled to act independently. Some few have to regret that they could not find their way out of the chaparral in time to join in the battle. Captain Barbour did good service with his detachment, by driving back a body of cavalry attempting to recover a piece of artillery taken by some officers and men of the 4th infantry. I must not omit to notice in this report the conduct of Corporal O'Sullivan, of company E, 3d infantry, who fired at a body of the enemy, and immediately rushed in among them and seized a lieutenant by the collar, disarmed him, and delivered him a prisoner to Lieutenant Graham. He afterwards went with a party under Sergeant Kendall, of F company, 3d Infantry, captured a gun from the enemy, rolled it out into the road, and turned it over to an officer of the 5th infantry. There were many other acts of individual daring; but, where all behaved well, it is deemed unnecessary to multiply instances.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. N. MORRIS, Captain 3d Infantry, Commanding the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Garland, Commanding 3d Brigade, Army of Occupation.

Head Quarters, 5th Infantry, Camp on the Field of Battle, May 10, 1846.

SIR: In obedience to your orders, I have the honor to report that, in the action of Palo Alto, on the 8th instant, the 5th infantry was placed on the extreme right of our line. After sustaining the cannonade of the enemy for about three quarters of an hour, the regiment was ordered to turn the left flank of the enemy, and was detached for that purpose, advancing nearly half a mile to the right and front; the cavalry of the Mexicans, with two pieces of artillery, in view, extending themselves apparently for the purpose of outflanking us. On the near approach of the enemy's cavalry, the regiment was thrown into square, with Capt. Walker, of the Texas Rangers, and twenty mounted men, on our right. The enemy commenced an irregular fire upon our square as they advanced, wounding three or four of our men, and continued to do so until within about fifty yards, when our fire was delivered from one front of the square, killing several men and horses, and causing the enemy to retire. Our fire was followed by the rifles of the mounted men. At this moment Lieutenant Ridgely, with two pieces of his battery, came to our support, and poured in a destructive fire of grape and cannister on the enemy, now in full retreat towards his right. The regiment remained on this ground for about half an hour, when we were ordered to take up position on the right of the new line, which had been formed by throwing forward our right, the enemy having changed his front nearly perpendicular to his first line. Here we received a severe fire from the enemy's batteries, wounding a corporal of the color company, and the color sergeant slightly. As it was now near night, we were ordered up for the protection of the train, the cannonading from both sides ceasing at dusk.

In the battle of the 9th, the 5th being in advance, and the enemy being discovered in front, the regiment was ordered into the chaparral on the left of the road, and directed to advance as skirmishers, and push for the enemy. The chaparral at first was dense and almost impassable, consequently the regiment became much separated and extended, rendering it

impossible to advance with much regularity. A severe cannonading from both sides now began, mingled with a tremendous fire of musketry. In a few moments the order was given to charge the enemy's batteries, which was promptly done by cavalry and infantry, and the enemy's guns were all captured. In this brilliant exploit the 5th bore a conspicuous part—a portion of the regiment successfully resisting the attempt of the enemy to recapture three guns on the right of his battery, the remainder of the regiment being extended towards the right, and mingling in the severe and close engagement which was there going on, and was so gloriously terminated.

During the action of this day, Lieut.-Colonel McIntosh and Captain Hooe were severely, and Lieut. Fowler slightly wounded: loss of the rank and file, nine killed and twenty-five wounded—many of them severely.

In conclusion, I will only add that all, both officers and men, did their duty in a most gallant manner, determined to conquer the enemy or perish in the conflict.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. STANIFORD, Major 5th Infantry, commanding Regiment.

To Col. D. E. Twiggs, commanding Right Wing, Army of Occupation.

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CAMP OF THE ARTILLERY BATT.,

First Brigade, near Matamoras, Mexico, May 13, 1846.

Captain GEO. A. McCALL, 4th Regiment of Infantry:

SIR: Agreeably to your desire, to-day I have the honor to report that, pursuant to your orders on the 9th instant, my command (consisting of the four light companies of the brigade) advanced on the right of the road flanking our artillery, and about eighty yards from it. The moment the fire of the enemy was heard, I hastened to the battalion, marching it by the right flank in the direction of the pond, until stopped by the thick chaparral, when it was faced to the front, and advanced in the direction of the enemy's battery. It being impossible to get through the chaparral advancing in line of battle, I ordered an advance by heads of companies, and to have the line re-formed as soon as we could get through—a matter that seemed difficult, if not impossible.

We had advanced thus but a few paces, when a discharge of musketry was given by the enemy towards the battery, and from our right and rear. This rendered a corresponding change on my part necessary. Accordingly I ordered the battalion to deploy as skirmishers, facing the pond, and to advance through the chaparral as far as possible. The moment this deployment was attempted, a heavy and well-sustained fire of musketry was opened upon us from the opposite edge of the pond, and kept up until the enemy retired. The chaparral was too dense for the men to charge through, but they maintained a steady fire, and with considerable effect, until a short time before the close of the action, when, my own observation confirming the report of the officers and men that a severe cross fire of musketry, which had been opened upon us from the left came from our friends, I withdrew the battalion about 200 yards, and then moved up the road to report for orders. General Taylor (by his adjutant general) directed me to sustain Lieutenant Duncan's battery, just about to pursue the enemy, which I did until it halted here. The behaviour of the company, officers\* and men, was all that could be desired. I feel under especial obligations to Captain J. B. Scott, 4th artillery, for the assistance rendered me (as an acting field officer) throughout the day. I give a return of the killed and wounded below.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. F. SMITH,  
Captain 2d Art. comd'g. Bat. of light companies, 1st Brigade.

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\*K. 2d Art.—Bvt. 2d Lt. H. F. Clarke. I. 4th Art.—1st Lt. J. C. Pemberton. A. 8th Inf.—1st Lt. A. T. Leo, 2d Lt. J. Longstreet. F. 8th Inf.—2d Lt. J. Beardsley, Bvt. 2d Lt. T. J. Montgomery.

REPORT OF CAPT. McCALL TO GEN. TAYLOR.

CAMP NEAR MATAMORAS, }  
May 13, 1846. }

SIR: On the 9th instant, in obedience to your orders, I marched from *Palo Alto*—the battle-ground of the 8th—with the “*advance*,” (consisting of 220 men,) to follow and observe the movements of the enemy on the route to Matamoras. I directed Capt. C. F. Smith, 2d artillery, with the light companies of the 1st Brigade, to move on the right of the road, while I advanced with the detachment, composed of artillery and infantry, on the left. Capt. Walker, of the Texas Rangers, with a small detachment of mounted men, was ordered to examine the road in front; and Lieutenant Pleasanton, 2d dragoons, with a few dragoons, marched in rear of the columns of infantry.

Having followed the trail of the enemy about two and a half miles, through the chaparral, a prisoner was taken on the edge of the Jackass prairie, and one of the enemy killed by Capt. Walker's men on the prairie.



Having examined the opposite side, Capt. Walker reported the road clear, when, desiring to procure definite information as to the position of the enemy, I pushed him forward into the chaparral, (within supporting distance,) and one or two parties of from three to six were seen in the brush; one of which—a mounted party—was fired upon by my right flankers. On reaching the open ground at *La Resaca de la Palma*, the head of my column received three rounds of cannister shot from a masked battery, which killed one private and wounded two sergeants, on the left of the road, and made my men take cover. They rallied, however, handsomely, within forty or fifty paces. I now brought Capt. Smith's detachment to the left of the road, proposing to attack by a flank movement, what I supposed to be *only* the rear-guard of the retiring army; and I sent Lieut. McCown, with two men, to recall Lieut. Dobbins, who, with a few men, had deployed to the left, where he killed one or two of the enemy, who showed themselves in his front. On the return of Lieut. Dobbins, with Lieut. McCown, the former reported a large body of troops in motion on our left, and at the same time some lancers were observed in the road in front. Being now satisfied that the Mexican army was in force, in our front, I despatched three dragoons to inform you of the fact, and then moved my command to a stronger position to await your arrival.

On your arrival, Capt. Smith was again ordered to take the right of the road, while I took the left, with orders to bring on the action, and then flank the enemy. Advancing about three hundred yards or more to the front and flank, I encountered the right of the enemy's infantry, and the action immediately commenced. They were strongly posted in the ravine on the near side of the pond, (the principal line being on the opposite side,) and, in addition to the fire of musketry from both lines, my men were exposed to heavy discharges of cannister from two field-pieces in rear of their centre; yet, in a short time the enemy were driven from their right towards the road, and my men followed with a *hearty cheer*. In following them, however, I soon found that our own batteries were sweeping my front, and their fire being kept up, I made a flank movement to the road, and here I at once became engaged with the enemy occupying the pond on the *right* of the road. As soon as their fire ceased at this point, I recrossed the road to regain my former position on the right flank of the enemy. Here a part of my regiment became mixed in with the 5th regiment of infantry; they united with that regiment, and charged with it. Lieutenant Pitcher of the 5th regiment was of the number. I continued to advance on the left of the 5th regiment, and was soon engaged with part of the regiment of the Tampico guards. They received several destructive fires from my men, and then retired. I should mention that during this interval, Lieut. McCown having been separated from me, joined the 8th infantry and charged with them. My command continued to move forward on the enemy's right with more or less interruption, (inseparable from a bush fight,) until the close of the battle.

Captain Smith being separated from me, I was not an eye-witness of the individual conduct of himself and officers, but I enclose herewith his report made to me this day.

In that part of my command where I was in person, every officer and man did his duty most handsomely. I received every assistance from the good conduct of Lieutenants Dobbin, McCown, Wainwright, and Pitcher, Lieutenants Dobbin, Wainwright, and Pitcher, used their own rifles and guns with good effect against the enemy, and everywhere inspired the men with confidence and eagerness to engage.

The loss sustained by the advance on the 9th May. was six killed and fourteen wounded.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE A. McCALL, Captain 4th Infantry, commanding the Advance.

Captain W. W. Bliss, Adjutant General, Army of Occupation.

The following, which we take from the Washington Union, completes the series of General Taylor's despatches:

From the Union, July 23.

We have been favored with a copy of the General Order No. 59, issued by General Taylor. It requires no introduction or explanation; but it illustrates his scrupulous sense of justice towards every one under his command. This extreme solicitude for the reputation of others is an honorable trait, and is the key to General Taylor's hold upon the affections and respect of the army:

Head Quarters, Army of Occupation, Matamoras, July 6, 1846.

SIR: It has been brought to my notice that an omission occurred in my detailed report of the action of the 9th, which I beg leave to supply in the following words, to follow immediately after the mention of Lieutenant-Colonel McIntosh's being "twice severely wounded."

The command of the 5th Infantry then devolved upon Major Staniford, who conducted it with zeal and ability to the close of the engagement.

I need hardly say that this omission was entirely accidental, and I beg, as an act of justice to Major Staniford as well as myself, that the above paragraph may be inserted in the original report, and may receive the same publicity.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) Z. TAYLOR, Brevet Major General.

The Adjutant General of the Army.

*Close of the Battle.*

The publication of the Despatches of Gen. Taylor and his officers, leave little more to be added.

A complete panic and rout ensued on the part of the enemy; they fled in every direction for the river; many were drowned in attempting to cross. Eight pieces of artillery fell into our hands, and an innumerable quantity of small arms, munitions, baggage, camp equipage, military chest containing a large quantity of gold, General Arista's carriage, baggage, port folio, with all his official correspondence with the government, with full plans of the campaign and instruction from the Mexican government, *authorising him to send General Taylor and his army, when taken prisoners, to the City of Mexico*; to treat Gen. Taylor and his officers with such care and attention as become the magnanimity of the great Mexican nation; four or five hundred head of mules, &c., with a large number of stands of colors.

After the rout, Gen. Taylor dispatched Capt. Car of the Dragoons, with a guard, to the fort, to convey the intelligence; they bore so many of the enemy's colors with them, that they presumed in the fort that it was the Mexicans coming up to make an assault, it being dark, and that the fort fired upon them, but fortunately injured no one.

The Mexican army was put to a total rout in the two battles of Resaca de la Palma and Palo Alto, with a loss of about 1000 men, all their cannon, about 600 pack mules, all the ammunition and provisions and personal baggage of officers, upwards of 1000 stand of small arms, all their drums, and a great many colors, and a General and three field officers prisoners, besides half a dozen Captains and subalterns.

After the battle of the 9th the right wing of the American army remained on the field two days, 10th and 11th, burying the dead and taking care of the captured property. They treated the Mexican prisoners with generous kindness, sharing with them whatever they had. But on the other hand the Mexicans invariably mutilated the killed if they were not too closely pressed to do it, and in every case killed where they could; even the wounded, who happened to have a breath left in them, were despatched with the lance or the bayonet. The American loss in the two actions was not over 150 killed and wounded.

The Mexicans retreated under so great a panic that numbers of them rushed into the Rio Grande to swim across, fearing they would be taken, and were drowned:—the bodies of four officers and more than a hundred men were seen floating down the river.

*Taylor Crosses the Rio Grande.*

On the 17th Gen. Taylor decided to move to the point selected for crossing the river, and commence operations against the city. The troops struck their tents early that morning. The unusual stir and activity was seen by the enemy, and no doubt attributed to the proper cause. A parley was sounded, and a deputation from Gen. Arista crossed to see Gen. Taylor. General Ricardo was at the head of it; Arista proposed to enter into an armistice, until they could hear from Mexico, not doubting the boundary would *now* be settled. Gen. Taylor said "no, that he had offered them one, some time since; had evinced the most friendly disposition; that they would not agree to it when his army was weak, and now, that reinforcements had arrived, he should dictate his own terms." Ricardo wished to know if the General intended taking Matamoras? He said "yes." R. offered to surrender all the public property, ammunition, &c., if he would not cross. The General said "no, that he must have Matamoras if he



had to batter it down, and said that now was he prepared to do it. He told him to tell Gen. Arista that these and these only were his terms. That the city must capitulate, all public property, ammunition, provision, &c. must be given up, and that then the army might march out and retire."

During the evening active preparations were made for crossing the troops. No reply was given to the General's proposition. The country people commenced crossing and reported that the army had deserted the city and retired. On the morning of the 18th confirmation was received of the reported flight of Arista and his army. The terror was still working. Early in the morning the Dragoons, the light companies of the different battalions, Ridgely's (late the lamented Ringgold's) Artillery, and the 5th Infantry, were crossed.

In crossing, Lieut. Stevens, of the 2nd Dragoons, was drowned.

After the troops had crossed, Adjutant General Bliss advanced towards the main fort in front of the town, and sounded a peal. The principal Alcalde made his appearance, and a formal demand was made for the surrender of the town, with a promise that all religious and civil rights should be secured to them—all private property protected. The alcalde wished to know if the public buildings and property would be free. The answer was, every thing belonging to the Government must be given up. The Alcalde then said Gen. Taylor could take possession as soon as he thought proper, and that he would meet with no resistance. This was done, the troops encamping in front of the town.

Gen. Taylor decided upon crossing the rest of the army at the upper ferry of the city. As they approached the ferry, the men already in possession of the Mexican fort prepared to run up the stars and stripes. Just as they reached the bank, Capt. Kerr, of the 2d Dragoons, ran it up; it floated gracefully in the breeze, and proudly waved over Mexico. The men of the advance sent up three hearty cheers to welcome the flag of their country! When the whole of the 3d Regiment was formed, it moved off to the right to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

Col. Twiggs was given the especial charge of the city, as far as the discovery and the collection of the public property is concerned, but General Taylor declined interfering with the municipal authorities.

#### *Subsequent Events.*

The events which occurred subsequent to the seizure of Matamoras may be briefly narrated, as they are of little moment.

The Mexican Government sent a small sum of money to Gen. Taylor to defray the expenses of medical attendance for their wounded soldiers, who filled the hospitals of the captured city. The local governments of the neighbouring towns and villages sent him their offers of submission, and throughout the whole region from the Rio Grande to Monterey, not a place is now held by the Mexican troops.

It would be foreign to the purpose of this work to enter into any speculations upon future events. A large body of volunteers have joined the regular forces under Gen. Taylor, who now ranks as high as any officer in the army, having been raised to the rank of Major-General by Congress, on the 27th of June. What his future movements may be, is as yet, uncertain: but he has, by a long career of faithful and glorious service, given his countrymen assured confidence that he will achieve new laurels for the American name.



## CHAPTER V.

## SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE OFFICERS ENGAGED IN THE LATE CONTEST.

RINGGOLD—BROWN—BELKNAP—TWIGGS—PAYNE—PAGE—HAWKINS—MAY—WALKER—CHADBOURNE—COCHRANE—INGE—STEVENS.

*Major Ringgold.*

Major Ringgold was the eldest son of the late General Samuel Ringgold, of Washington Co., Md. His mother was a daughter of General John Cadwallader, of Philadelphia—a distinguished citizen in the days of the Revolution. He entered the army as Lieutenant of Artillery, in July, 1818, having graduated at West Point with much honor—being one of the five whose names were recorded as the most distinguished of a class. He was at once elevated by General Scott as one of his aids, and served in that capacity for several years, and ever enjoyed in a very eminent degree, the confidence and friendship of that distinguished soldier. Pending the disturbances in South Carolina, the deceased was there on duty, and he has frequently expressed his heartfelt gratification at the peaceful termination of the unhappy difficulties between a portion of the gallant people of that State and the General Government. When the Indian war occurred in Florida, the deceased, then a Captain of Artillery, was there on duty, actively employed in various services, until the wasting effects of the climate had so impaired his health that he was prostrated by disease. For “meritorious services” in that campaign, he was rewarded by the rank of Brevet Major. He was afterwards selected by the Major General Commanding in Chief, to organize a corps of flying artillery, and he paid every possible attention to the instruction and discipline of this arm of the service. How faithfully he executed his duty in this respect, the performances of his admirable corps at Fort McHenry and other places—and on the *field of Palo Alto*—fully attest.

He never recovered from the effects of his exposures during the Florida campaign; and when ordered from Fort McHenry to join the army in Texas, the experienced surgeon at this post strongly insisted upon his physical inability to go through with the campaign. But he strengthened himself for duty; and as far as known here, he was never, for an hour, unfit for service, since he left the Fort. He fell in the fierce battle of the 8th of May; the same ball killing his horse under him and wounding him mortally.

The deceased was an accomplished gentleman, beloved by his friends, and greatly respected by all who knew him. He was devoted to his profession, and he justly appreciated the high responsibilities of an officer in command. He rigidly applied discipline at all times and in all things; and yet, probably no officer had more entirely the respect, the confidence and the affectionate regard of all his officers and men, than the gallant soldier of whom this brief sketch is given.

The deceased in a letter to his immediate friends, written just as the army was about to march from Camp Isabel, (but which letter was received only since the sad intelligence of his fall,) spoke of the extreme probability of a serious rencontre with the enemy, and expressed sure confidence in the triumph of our gallant little army. But with characteristic coolness, he also adverted to the great probability of his own fall in battle, and in anticipation of that event, he made a brief will, which was enclosed in that letter. His patriotic words to the friendly officer who came to his assistance ought not to be forgotten—“Don’t stay with me, you have work to do—go ahead.”

Major Ringgold has left a brother in the Navy, Lieut. Cadwallader Ringgold, who was in the exploring expedition.

One of his cousins, Capt. McCall, is in the army under Gen. Taylor, and led the advance in one of the late actions.

*Major Brown.*

MAJOR J. BROWN, of the 7th Regiment of Infantry, was killed in the attack made by the Mexicans on his encampment, opposite Matamoras. At the beginning of the war in 1812, he enlisted in the army as a common soldier. He was an orderly sergeant at the battle of Christler's field, on the bank of the St. Lawrence, during the last war with Great Britain, and for his gallant conduct in that action he received a commission. On account of his merit, he was promoted from the ranks to the office of ensign, and served with great bravery and good conduct during the whole of the war. He was in nearly all the hard fought battles on the Niagara in the years 1813 and '14. Before the close of the war, he was promoted to the office of 1st Lieutenant, and afterwards rose by regular gradations to the rank of Major, in which capacity he has served for many years. He has been 34 years in the army, and has been much in active service in various parts of the frontier. He at an early day acted as commissary of subsistence at Council Bluffs, and was afterwards stationed at St. Louis as Quarter-Master Commissary. He was at one time engaged in conducting the tribes of emigrating Indians to the west, and was in active service during nearly the whole period of the Florida war. A number of years ago, he was stationed at Little Rock, and, although still in the army was elected first President of the Bank of Arkansas, which post he held for a year and resigned. He at various times disbursed very large sums of public money, and was remarkable for accuracy, fidelity, system and punctuality.

He has left a wife and two daughters. The former has been an inmate of the McLean Asylum for ten or twelve years, and is not now conscious of the death of her husband. His daughters were educated at Roxbury, and until about three years ago resided there in a family, between whom and the Major there have long existed the kindest feelings. But having been appointed to the command of the garrison at Pensacola, he took his daughters with him—they having completed their education. The youngest has since been married to a surgeon in the United States Army, who was attached to his regiment at the time he received his mortal wound. Major Brown was a noble specimen of a man. He was modest and unassuming in his deportment, and possessed a heart overflowing with the milk of human kindness. As an officer he was distinguished for his courage, military skill, coolness and decision in the hour of battle. General Taylor, in his official despatches, pronounces his loss "irreparable."

Major Brown was 58 years of age at the time of his death. He was a native of Clarksburg, in Berkshire Co., Mass. His father resided there for many years, and was aided and often visited by his son.

He received his fatal wound while superintending the labors of the soldiers in constructing the "bomb-proofs" of the fortification, opposite Matamoras. His leg was shattered by the fragment of a shell, and while he was conveyed to the operating station, he exhorted the soldiers whom he passed to do their duty faithfully, and never give up the fort! Such was Major Jacob Brown.

*Col. Belknap.*

Lieut. Col. Belknap, of the 1st Brigade, is a native of Newburgh, New York. A writer in a Newburgh paper thus speaks of him :

"There are many among us yet who could bear witness to early occasions in

which he manifested those tokens of hardihood and fearlessness which have marked his subsequent career whenever an opportunity has occurred for exercising them.

“He was distinguished as amongst the bravest of the brave in the sanguinary campaign upon the Niagara, when contending against the veteran troops of the Wellington school; and was there wounded under circumstances that evinced not only an utter disregard of personal danger, but a heart alive to the noblest sympathies of our nature.

“He has been a long time in the service. He has been subjected to the most trying domestic privations—for years in succession an exile from his wife and children. He has served the country in all its regions and climates—has endured every hardship, and been exposed to every species of danger which the army has been required to encounter.”

In the attack upon Fort Erie during the last war with Great Britain, Col. Belknap, then a Lieut., acted a distinguished part. His commanding officer, Gen. Ripley, in his official despatch, thus notices his services:

“The manner in which Lieut. Belknap, of the 23d, retired with his picquet guard from before the enemy’s column excites my particular commendation. He gave orders to fire three times as he was retreating to camp, himself bringing up the rear. In this gallant manner he kept the light advance of the enemy in check for a distance of two or three hundred yards. I have to regret that when entering our lines after his troops, the enemy pushed so close upon him that he received a severe wound from a bayonet.”

#### *Col. Twiggs.*

Col. Twiggs commanded the right wing of the army of occupation during the battle of Palo Alto. While the battalions were forming in line this gallant officer rode down among them, his countenance serene and cheerful inspiring the troops. During the action he was in his proper position as commander of the right wing and ready to move at any moment where his presence might be required.

On the morning of the 9th he rode over the field of action of the 8th and assisted in inspiring the men with the confidence that they could not be beaten. His coolness and decision in the battle of the 9th materially assisted to win its glorious result.

Col. Twiggs is a native of Georgia, and entered the army in 1818.

#### *Col. Payne.*

Colonel Payne was the Inspector General of the army of occupation. On the 5th of May he took a very conspicuous position, and rode down the line several times before the commencement of the battle. During that trying struggle he rendered very material assistance at the battery of the two eighteen pounders. On the morning of the 9th he gave the general orders to the different regiments, as they came up, with coolness and precision. He was most conspicuous during the heaviest fire, and by his gallantry and enthusiasm contributed greatly to the glorious result of the battle of Resaca de la Palma. He was severely wounded in the hip about the middle of the action, and although he suffered great pain, refused to leave the saddle until the victory was won.

Col. Payne has recently returned to the North, and has had the honor of presenting to the Executive of the nation the trophies of victory recently won by our armies.

Col. Payne is a native of Goochland County, Virginia, and the citizens of that part of the country have presented him with a complimentary sword.



*Captain Page.*

Captain John Page was born at Fryeburg, in the State of Maine. He was appointed to the army from Massachusetts on the 13th of February, 1818, as a second Lieutenant in the 8th Infantry. Upon the reduction of the army in 1821, he was among those retained in service, and was then transferred to the 4th Infantry, in which he served until his death from wounds received at Palo Alto. At the time he was wounded he was in the actual performance of duty commanding a division of the 4th Infantry. Cool, collected and brave, he on that memorable day performed every duty assigned to him. The regiment being very much exposed to a heavy fire from the Mexican batteries, Gen. Taylor ordered it to move off and take up another position, as it could render no service against the enemy, the action being principally confined to the artillery on both sides. Capt. Page at the moment he was wounded had faced towards his division, and was in the act of giving the word of command.

Strong hopes were entertained of his recovery for many weeks, but he finally expired on the 7th July, while on his passage to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. His wife and family were with him in his last hours.

Captain Page was married to Miss Blaney of Newcastle, Delaware, and had by her three children.

*Captain Hawkins.*

Captain E. S. Hawkins is a native of the State of New York, and is the eldest son of the late Colonel Samuel Hawkins, formerly of the city of New York, who raised a volunteer regiment, and had command at the Narrows, at the close of the last war. He was subsequently agent of the government under the Ghent Treaty, in settling the Canada boundary.

The family of Colonel Hawkins is a brave one; Charles, his second son, was Commodore of the Texan navy, and died at New Orleans. Captain H., the defender of Fort Brown, graduated at West Point, and has been in the service since 1820. His reply to the pompous demand of Arista to surrender, that "respectfully declined," was peculiarly characteristic.

*Captain May.*

A Baltimore correspondent of the Boston Atlas, in describing some incidents connected with the officers of General Taylor's army, and the great battles on the Rio Grande, thus spoke of the personal appearance and intrepid character of Captain May, the bold Dragoon:

"You have seen the personal description of Capt. May, given in a New Orleans paper. It scarcely comes up to the man. He is over six feet high, wears his hair long, so that it nearly reaches his hips; his beard falls below his sword belt, and his moustache is unshorn. He is a splendid rider. It was this that first attracted the attention of General Jackson, who seeing him galloping along the streets in Washington, standing in his stirrups, and presenting the personification of a knight of the ancient days of chivalry, sent for him, and gave him a commission of cornet. He was in the Florida war, and many are the deeds of daring done there told of him. He rose rapidly to distinction, and he owes to his service in that war his present commission of Captain. It will interest some of your fair readers to hear that he was crossed in love some years ago. Since that time he has never allowed his hair or beard to be touched by the barber. Such is the story told of him.

"I have seen a letter from the camp at Matamoras, with a sketch of 'Captain

*May making his charge.* It is a most spirited and life-like thing. The Mexican batteries are at work, carrying destruction into the ranks of the Americans; the second platoon of the cavalry has been swept down; their horses and riders are lying together 'heaped and pent.' May is in advance of them all, on his noble black steed, standing up in the stirrups, his head bent forward, his long hair streaming out behind, like the tail of a comet, and his whole appearance, viewed from the head, looking like one of those celestial visitants. It is a most striking and animated sketch, and gives to those who see it a vivid idea of that most gallant and brilliant achievement. Some of our engravers must get out a picture for it; for the demand to see it can only thus be gratified. No wonder, from the *outré* appearance of Capt. May, his face all covered with beard, his hair streaming behind him, like a Cumanche Indian, and his eyes glowing like a comet—no wonder that Gen. Vega asked, when the Captain demanded his sword, 'Are you an officer?'—He very probably mistook him for a spirit from the other world, who had conspired with the Americans to give them the victory they had just won against such odds."

Captain May is a native of Washington, D. C., and is one of six brothers, all of whom it is said are over six feet two inches in height.

*Captain Samuel H. Walker.*

This officer is one of those rare spirits which a state of war will bring out from our citizen soldiers. His late unequal conflict with the Mexicans, in which he lost nearly every man under his command, and his daring heroism in cutting his way to General Taylor's camp, have excited in the public mind a strong desire to know more of him. He is the same gentleman so frequently and honorably spoken of in General Green's journal of the Mier expedition. He is a native of Washington City, from whence he went into the Florida war, where in several campaigns he distinguished himself by his intrepid bravery. In 1842 he went to Texas, and during the invasion of that republic by General Wool, he was marked for his bold and daring conduct. After the Mexican General had retreated from San Antonio, and when he lay upon the Rio Hondo, Walker and Captain McCullough crawled through his camp one night, and spied out his position, and the next day, with his gallant companion, Hays, led the attack upon his rear guard. He then joined the celebrated expedition against Mier; and on the morning of that sanguinary battle, he, with three others—being the advance scout of the Texans—was taken prisoner, and carried, with his hands tied behind, to the head quarters of General Ampudia. The Mexican General questioned him as to the Texan forces, and when Walker informed him that the Texans had only 300 men, Ampudia pompously replied, "Does that audacious handful of men presume to follow me into this strong place and attack me?" "Yes," says Walker, "make yourself content on that subject, General, they will follow you into Hades and attack you there." He was, with his comrades, then marched to the city of Mexico.

At Salado, with the lamented Captain Cameron, and Dr. Brenen, he led the attack upon the guard, overpowered them, and marched for Texas, when, after eating up all their horses and mules, surrendered to the Mexican Generals Mercier and Ortago. He was again marched to Salado, where, with his comrades, he was made to draw in the celebrated black bean lottery, and every tenth man was shot. Those that remained of the Texans were marched to the Castle of Perote and the city of Mexico. Here, while working on the streets in that city, he was struck by a Mexican corporal for not working faster, when, with his spade, he knocked down the corporal, which caused the guards to beat him nearly to death. His life was a long time despaired of, and upon his recovery he, with two companions, scaled the walls of his prison after nightfall, and made

his way to Texas, over a distance of more than a thousand miles. Before, however, they got out of the country, they were twice more imprisoned, and each time effected their escape. When he reached Texas again, he joined Captain Hays, who, with fifteen others, armed with Colt's revolving pistols, fought against ninety-six Cumanches, and defeated them, leaving thirty-six killed upon the ground. Here Walker was run through the body with a Cumanche spear, and his life again despaired of.

To such men Texas is indebted for her emancipation from Mexico. Few, as they are, they have won her liberty, and have miraculously maintained it for ten years against the boasted power of Mexico.

#### *Lieutenant Chadbourne.*

Lieutenant Theodore L. Chadbourne, of the 8th infantry, fell in the battle of Resaca de la Palma, on the 9th of May. He was the eldest, child and only son of Ichabod R. Chadbourne, Esq., a lawyer of respectability, of Eastport, Me. His mother is a daughter of the Hon. Theodore Lincoln, of the adjoining town of Dennysville, who is the only surviving son of Gen. Benjamin Lincoln of the Revolutionary army.

Lieutenant Chadbourne was born in Eastport, in the year 1822. He graduated at West Point with in 1844, and shortly after became attached to the army.

In Lieutenant Chadbourne were combined a fine personal appearance, the address of a perfect gentleman; singular amenity of manners, and the utmost probity of character. Nor was he lacking in the more commanding qualities. He possessed an intellect at once acute and well balanced, and a force of will and firmness of character eminently fitted for the duties of his hazardous profession. In the words of Halleck, as quoted to us by one of his classmates, "none knew him but to love him, or named him but to praise." In his death, his country lost one of the most promising of her sons, and the American army an officer whose talents and character could not have failed to add lustre to its glorious escutcheon. His fate will call forth a sigh of regret from thousands who had never known him; and in his death his relatives and friends will have a source of affliction that can never be dried.

The following account of his death is taken from a late number of the Eastport Sentinel, and is extracted from a letter to the father of Lieut. Chadbourne, from one of his superior officers.

"The melancholy duty devolves upon me to announce the death of your son, Lieut. Theo. L. Chadbourne, 8th Regiment U. S. Infantry. He was killed in the battle of the 9th of May, while gallantly leading his men to a charge upon the enemy, which drove them from their strong-hold, and put them to rout in awful confusion. Several other officers of his regiment were wounded. He was killed by a shot through the body, and fell into the arms of sergeant Bailey of the 8th Regiment. He exclaimed,—“Oh! Sergeant, I'm going; take my sword and watch”—he uttered no more. His body was brought into camp at this station, (camp near Matamoras) and interred with appropriate military honors. The officers of the Regiment condole with you in this distressing affliction; for they have lost a comrade whom they loved. The sword-belt has a hole where the bullet penetrated and passed through the body.”

The following remarks from the Boston Courier we doubt not will be read with interest in this connection.

“Among the killed in the late encounter of General Taylor with the Mexicans, we see the name of LIEUT. THEODORE LINCOLN CHADBOURNE. He was a native of Eastport, Maine, and a great grandson of the celebrated General Lincoln, of the revolutionary army. He has fallen in the twenty-third year of his age, in



the flush of youthful vigor, beauty and hope. The pride of his doating parents and admiring sisters, young Chadbourne was also beloved by a large circle of relatives and friends in this city and State. There was something in his very presence, which converted even a transient acquaintance into a friend. His form and stature were the perfection of manly symmetry and grace; and his fine, ingenuous countenance spoke the noblest traits of mind and heart. And the internal man corresponded to his prepossessing exterior. He was blameless in all the relations of life—a good son and a brother, and a fearless soldier—upright, clear-headed, warm-hearted and patriotic. What desolation will the news of his premature death carry to the amiable and affectionate circle, to which he was allied by the tenderest of human ties! In the pathetic language of Lady Randolph, over the dead body of Douglas, will not the bereaved mother exclaim:—

“ My beautiful, my brave ! ”

Lieut. Chadbourne graduated a year or two since at West Point. He appears to have fallen in the charge upon the chaparral, where the Mexicans were ensconced, during General Taylor's march from Point Isabel. We have as yet, however, no particulars of his death. We only know that he has fallen in the discharge of his duty as a soldier, and in a manner worthy of the heroic blood, which beat in his young veins. Peace and honor to his memory.

#### *Lieutenant Cochrane.*

Lieutenant R. E. Cochrane was born in Delaware, and appointed, from the same state, as Second Lieutenant of the 4th Infantry, on the 13th of September, 1838. In the action of the 8th of May, he commanded a company of the 4th infantry. His conduct, on that trying day, was marked by coolness and decision. On the 9th, the 4th infantry, as it came up to the vicinity of Resaca de la Palma, was ordered to deploy on each side of the road, and to drive the enemy out of the chaparral; the right wing being wheeled to the right, and the left to the left. The company which Lieutenant Cochrane commanded composed a part of the left wing. He gallantly led them on, and in a few minutes was in the thickest of the fight. The Mexican lancers charged, and, in resisting that charge, he fell covered with wounds, and died instantly. He received nine wounds, each of which would have killed a man.

Lieutenant Cochrane's loss was deeply deplored by the regiment on account of his amiable and conciliatory disposition. His body was found on the evening of the battle, and on the ensuing day was interred with military honors, on the very spot on which he fell. It was truly a soldier's grave. At the request of Captain Morrison, who was attached to the same mess with Lieutenant Cochrane, a rude cross was erected over his grave, and Lieutenant Hayes, of the 4th infantry, had a rude paling built up around it. He leaves an interesting wife and one child, now among her connections in Arkansas.

#### *Lieutenant Inge.*

Lieutenant Zebulon M. P. Inge was a native of Alabama, (Tuscaloosa,) a graduate of the Military Academy at West Point. He entered the army in 1838, and was assigned, according to his own wishes and peculiar fitness for the service, to the second regiment of dragoons, then serving in Florida. Owing to the deficiency of officers in the Cherokee Nation—where several regiments of the army were stationed pending the removal of the Cherokees, under General Scott—Lieutenant Inge, together with several other officers of his regiment, was assigned to duty temporarily with the 4th regiment of Infantry, and was ordered

to report in person to General Scott. He served in the Cherokee Nation under the immediate eye of General Scott, in command of a company of mounted Infantry, until the troops were withdrawn, when he joined his regiment in Florida, in the fall of 1838. His service in Florida during the Seminole War, was distinguished by the most constant and active service in the field. At the termination of the war, he followed his regiment to Fort Jesup, Louisiana.

At the departure of his regiment from Fort Jesup, in July, 1845, to join Gen. Taylor at Corpus Christi, Lieut. Inge was selected to remain in charge of the public property and the sick. In February of the following year, the Fort was ordered to be abandoned, public property sold, and Lieut. Inge to join his regiment. In New Orleans he obtained permission to visit Washington City, for the purpose of settling his account with the Government. He availed himself of the occasion to conduct his wife, (formerly Miss Williams, of Maryland,) north, and leave her with her friends. Returning south, he arrived at Point Isabel just in time to join his company, and to be engaged in the charge at the battles of Resaca de la Palma, which resulted in his death. He was buried on the field of battle with the honours of arms.

Lieut. Inge was amiable, honest, and brave—a good husband and a boon companion—a friend above all others. He had no children—was about 29 years of age.

#### *Lieutenant Stevens.*

Lieut. George Stevens, of the 2d Dragoons, and belonging to Captain May's company, after having been conspicuously active in the gallant charge made by that officer on the memorable 9th of May, was accidentally drowned in crossing the Rio Grande, while attempting to swim the river with his squadron.

Lt. Stevens was born June 8, 1821. He graduated at the Military Academy, West Point, June, 1843. Previous to his receiving the appointment as Cadet, he was for some time a student at the Grammar School at Lyndon, and at the Newbury Seminary, also for a time a student at Peacham Academy. During the first four years of his absence he visited his parents twice. He left his home for the Army, Oct. 15, 1843, and joined his regiment at Fort Jesup, La. In August, 1844, the commanding officer at Fort Jesup received despatches from our Chargé at Houston, Texas,—these despatches were entrusted to Lt. Stevens, and were by him brought to Washington. Lieut. S. was then sent by the executive with despatches to our Chargé at Houston, Texas. He travelled on horseback from Fort Jesup to Houston, and back again, near 800 miles, going and coming. The route he travelled in 16 days, and was detained 2 days at Houston with his favorite gray horse, which he called "Ethan Allen." His regiment left Fort Jesup in July, 1845, for Corpus Christi: during this expedition, Lieut. S. officiated as Topographical Engineer. After arriving with his regiment at Corpus Christi, he was detached with 36 Dragoons to accompany the Paymaster of the American Army to San Antonio. For a portion of the time his regiment was at Corpus Christi, Lieut. S. officiated as Adjutant to his regiment. He marched with the American army to the Rio Grande, opposite Matamoras, now Fort Brown. After said fort was completed, he marched with Gen. Taylor's Army to Point Isabel, May 2d. The next day he wrote to his parents giving the position of the two armies, and the probability of an immediate engagement. He belonged to Capt. May's company of Dragoons, which made some of the last and most desperate charges upon the Mexican artillery in the actions of the 8th and 9th, and in the latter captured the Mexican General Vega. In both of these actions Lieut. S. escaped unhurt.

## A P P E N D I X .

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HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,  
Corpus Christi, Texas, March 8, 1846. }

*Orders No. 30.*

The Army of Occupation being about to take position on the left bank of the Rio Grande, under the orders of the Executive of the United States, the General Commanding deems it proper to express his hope that the movement will prove beneficial to all concerned, and that nothing may be wanting on his part to ensure so desirable a result, he strictly enjoins on his command the most scrupulous regard for the rights of all persons who may be found in the peaceable pursuit of their respective avocations, residing on both banks of the Rio Grande; no person under any pretence whatever will interfere in any manner with the civil rights or religious privileges of the people, but will pay the utmost respect to both. Whatever may be required for the use of the army will be purchased by the proper Departments at the highest market price. The General Commanding is happy to say that he has entire confidence in the patriotism and discipline of the army under his command, and feels assured that his orders, as above expressed, will be strictly observed.

Signed, Z. TAYLOR,  
Brevet Brig. Genl. Commanding.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,  
Point Isabel, May 4th, 1846. }

*Orders No. 54.*

The army will march at 3 o'clock to-day in the direction of Matamoras. It is known that the enemy has recently occupied the route in force—if still in position, the General will give them battle.

The Commanding General has every confidence in his officers and men. If his orders and instructions are carried into effect, he has no doubt of the result, let the enemy meet him in what manner they may. He wishes to enjoin on the battalions of Infantry that their main dependence must be in the bayonets.

By order of  
Brig. Genl. TAYLOR,  
Signed, W. W. BLISS, A. Adjt. Genl.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,  
Resaca de la Palma, May 10, 1846. }

*Orders No. 59.*

The Commanding General congratulates the army under his command upon the signal success which has crowned his recent operations against the enemy.

The coolness and steadiness of the troops during the action of the 8th, and the brilliant impetuosity with which the enemy's position and artillery were carried on the 9th, have displayed the best qualities of the *American Soldier*.

To every officer and soldier of his command, the General publicly returns his thanks for the noble manner in which they have sustained the honour of the Service and the country.

While the main body have been thus actively employed, the garrison left opposite Matamoras has rendered no less distinguished service by sustaining a severe command, and bombardment for many successive days.

The army and country, whilst justly rejoicing in the triumph of our arms, will deplore the loss of many brave officers and men who fell gallantly in the hour of combat.



It being necessary for the Commanding General to visit Point Isabel on public business, Col. Twiggs will assume command of the corps of the army near Matamoras, including the garrison of the field works. He will occupy the former lines of the army, making such dispositions for the comfort and defence of his command as he may deem advisable.

He will hold himself strictly on the defensive until the return of the General.

By order of

Brig. Genl. TAYLOR,

Signed,

W. W. S. BLISS, A. A. Genl.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MONDAY, JULY 13, 1846.

#### THANKS OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL TAYLOR, HIS OFFICERS AND MEN.

The amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution of the House, was concurred in and the resolution is as follows, viz :

*Resolved unanimously by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the thanks of Congress are due, and are hereby tendered to Major General Zachary Taylor, commanding the army of occupation, his officers and men, for the fortitude, skill, enterprise and courage which have distinguished the recent brilliant operations on the Rio Grande.

Sec. 2. *And be it further resolved,* That Congress sincerely sympathizes with the relatives and friends of the officers and soldiers of the army of the United States, who so bravely fell in the service of their country on the Rio Grande.

Sec. 3. *And be it further resolved,* That the President of the United States be requested to cause the foregoing resolutions to be communicated to General Taylor, and through him to the army under his command.

Sec. 4. *And be it further resolved,* That the President of the United States be authorized and requested to have a medal of gold procured, with appropriate devices and inscriptions thereon, and presented to General Taylor, in the name of the Republic, as a tribute due to his good conduct, valor, and generosity to the vanquished.

*Field report of the corps composing the army of occupation, commanded by Brevet Brigadier General Z. Taylor, on the 8th of May, 1846.*

Commissioned officers, 177 ; non-commissioned officers, artificers, musicians and privates, 2,111 ; aggregate, 2,228.

Head-quarters, Army of Occupation, camp near Matamoras, May 6, 1846.

Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brig. General U. S. Army, Commanding.

W. W. S. BLISS, Asst. Adjutant General.

#### MEXICANS ENGAGED IN THE BATTLES OF THE EIGHTH AND NINTH.

The official despatches of the Mexican generals, taken together, prove conclusively that they had over 5,000 men engaged against Gen. Taylor's force of 2,100. The probability is that the Mexicans were at least 6,000 strong. It will be seen by the following extract from a despatch of Gen. Arista, that the Mexicans mustered 4,000 troops after the battles :

“The file of documents contained in No. 1, will make known to your excellency our number of killed and wounded, and of the dispersed who have not yet presented themselves, and that the corps of the army are re-united, forming a total of 4,000 men, including the prisoners received in exchange, and exclusive of the numerous reinforcements whose reports have not yet come in at the moment when this express is despatched.”

LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEN KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Return of the killed, wounded and missing of the Army of Occupation, at the action of Palo Alto, May 8, 1846.

Return of killed, wounded and missing of the Army of Occupation at the action of Resaca de la Palma, May 9th, 1846.

	Kild	Wo'ded	Mis.	Agg.									
	Non-com. officers, artificers, musicians and privates.	Commissioned Officers.	Non-com. officers, artificers, musicians and privates.	Non-com. officers, artificers, musicians and privates.									Killed.
Head-quarters, - -					Head-quarters, - -								
Ringgold's Art'y,	1	1*		1	Adv. McCall, -								
2d Dragoons, - - -			6	6	Ridgely's Art.								
3d Infantry, - - -					2d Dragoons, -	1	10						
4th Infantry, - - -	1	1†	2	1	3d Infantry, - -								
5th Infantry, - - -			4	3	4th Infantry, - -	1	5						
Duncan's Artill'y,			4	4	5th Infantry, - -								
Battalion of Art'y	3	1	9	3	Duncan's Art.								
8th Infantry, - - -	4		16	4	Battal. of Art.								
Aggregate, - - - -	9	3	41	2	8th Infantry, - -	1	7	7	25		5	39	82
					Aggregate, - - -	3	36	12	71	5	39	82	

\* Major Ringgold, since dead. † Captain Page, since dead. ‡ Lieut. Luther, slightly. Fourteen horses were killed and four wounded.

Twenty horses were killed and 19 wounded in this engagement.

N. B. The killed and wounded of the "advance" being included in their own regiments, are omitted in the aggregate.

Head-quarters, Army of Occupation, camp near Matamoras, May 16, 1846.

Z. TAYLOR,

Bt. Brig. General U. S. A., Commanding.

W. W. BLISS, Assist. Adj. General.

A PROCLAMATION,

BY THE GENERAL COMMANDING THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; TO THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO.

After many years of patient endurance, the United States are at length constrained to acknowledge, that a war now exists between our Government and the Government of Mexico.

For many years our citizens have been subjected to repeated insults and injuries; our vessels and cargoes have been seized and confiscated; our merchants have been plundered, maimed, imprisoned, without cause and without reparation. At length your Government acknowledged the justice of our claims, and agreed by treaty to make satisfaction, by payment of several millions of dollars; but this treaty has been violated by your rulers, and the stipulated payments have been withheld.

Our late effort to terminate all difficulties by peaceful negotiation has been rejected by the dictator Paredes, and our Minister of peace, whom your rulers had agreed to receive,

has been refused a hearing. He has been treated with indignity and insult, and Paredes has announced that war exists between us.

This war, thus first proclaimed by him, has been acknowledged as an existing fact by our President and Congress, with perfect unanimity, and will be prosecuted with vigor and energy against your army and rulers; but those of the Mexican people who remain neutral will not be molested.

Your Government is in the hands of tyrants and usurpers. They have abolished your state Governments; they have overthrown your federal constitution; they have deprived you of the right of suffrage; destroyed the liberty of the press; despoiled you of your arms; and reduced you to a state of absolute dependence upon the power of a military dictator.

Your army and rulers extort from the people by grievous taxation, by forced loans and military seizures, the very money which sustains the usurpers in power. Being disarmed, you were left defenceless, an easy prey to the savage Cumanches, who not only destroy your lives and property, but drive into a captivity more horrible than death itself, your wives and children. It is your military rulers who have reduced you to this deplorable condition.

It is these tyrants and their corrupt and cruel satellites, gorged with the people's treasure, by whom you are thus oppressed and impoverished, some of whom have boldly advocated a monarchical Government, and would place a European Prince upon the throne of Mexico.

We come to obtain a reparation for repeated wrongs and injuries—we come to obtain indemnity for the past, and security for the future—we come to overthrow the tyrants who have destroyed your liberties—but we come to make no war upon the people of Mexico, nor upon any form of free government they may choose to select for themselves.

It is our wish to see you liberated from despots, to drive back the savage Cumanches, to prevent the renewal of their assaults, and to compel them to restore to you from captivity your long lost wives and children. Your religion, your altars and churches, the property of your churches and citizens, the emblems of your faith and its ministers, shall be protected and remain inviolate.

Hundreds of our army, and hundreds of thousands of our people, are members of the Catholic Church. In every state, and in nearly every city and village of our Union, Catholic Churches exist, and the priests perform their holy functions, in peace and security, under the sacred guarantee of our Constitution.

We come among the people of Mexico as friends and republican brethren, and all who receive us as such shall be protected, whilst all who are seduced into the army of your Dictator shall be treated as enemies. We shall want from you nothing but food for our army, and for this you shall always be paid in cash the full value. It is the settled policy of your tyrants to deceive you in regard to the policy and character of our Government and people.

These tyrants fear the example of our free institutions, and constantly endeavor to misrepresent our purposes, and inspire you with hatred for your republican brethren of the American Union. Give us but the opportunity to undeceive you, and you will soon learn that all the representations of Paredes were false, and were only made to induce you to consent to the establishment of a despotic Government.

In your struggles for liberty with the Spanish monarchy, thousands of our countrymen risked their own lives and shed their blood in your defence. Our own commodore, the gallant Porter, maintained in triumph your flag upon the ocean, and our Government was the first to acknowledge your independence.

With pride and pleasure we enrolled your name on the list of independent republics, and sincerely desired that you might in peace and prosperity enjoy all the blessings of free government. Success on the part of your tyrants against the army of the Union is impossible, but if they could succeed it would only be to enable them to fill your towns with their soldiers, eating out your substance and harassing you with still more grievous taxation.

Already they have abolished the liberty of the press as the first step toward the introduction of that monarchy which it is their real purpose to proclaim and establish.

Mexicans, we must treat as enemies and overthrow the tyrants who, while they have wronged and insulted us, have deprived you of your liberty; but the Mexican people who remain neutral during the contest, shall be protected against their military despots by the republican army of the Union.

Z. TAYLOR,  
Major General U. S. A., Commanding.



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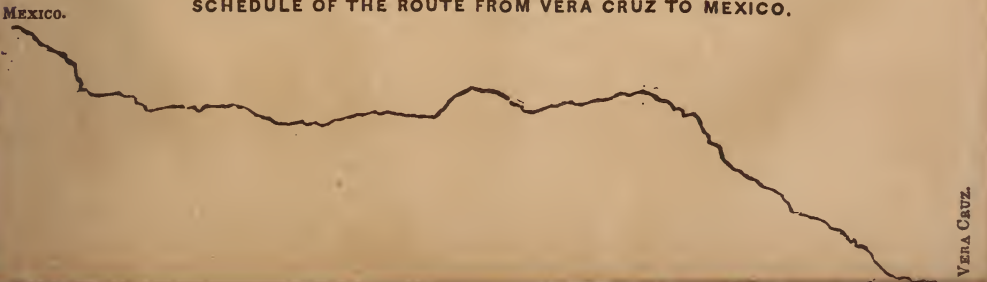
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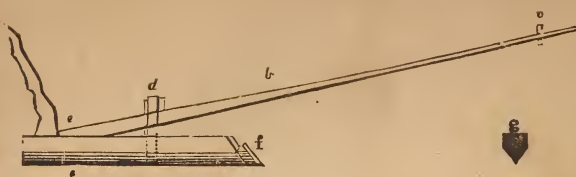
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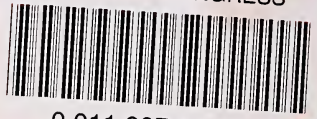








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